



June 29, 2005

**Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust (MCIT) Building
100 Empire Dr., St. Paul, MN**

(North of Capitol Building about 1/2-mile and west of Jackson Street on Empire)

1:00 to 3:00+ PM

See directory in lobby for meeting room location.

AGENDA

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1. Call to Order	
2. Approve Agenda	<i>action</i>
3. Approve Meeting Summary	
a) March 30, 2005	<i>action</i> 1
4. Summary of April 20 Policy Board Meeting	5.5
5. Action and Discussion Items:	
a) MetroGIS DataFinder Café – Upgrade Proposal	<i>action</i> 6
b) Regional GIS Project Proposals	<i>action</i> 12
c) GIS Demonstration Topic for July Policy Board meeting	<i>action</i> 25
d) Fill Non-Profit Representative Seat on Committee	<i>action</i> 27
e) Quarterly Performance Measures Anomaly Report	<i>action</i> 31
f) Postpone 9/22 Target Date for Strategic Planning Workshop	<i>action</i> 37
6. Project Updates:	39
a) County Data Producer Workgroup Activities <i>(A synopsis of activity in three primary areas of activity)</i>	
b) Priority Business Information Need Solutions and User Satisfaction Forums <i>(A synopsis of activity in eight thematic areas)</i>	
7. Information Sharing:	44
a) Change in TIES Representation to the Committee	
b) LMIC's Reorganization	
c) New Testimonial: City of Roseville / Ramsey County GIS Users Group	
d) Presentations / Outreach / Studies	
e) Metro and State Geospatial Initiatives Update (includes County-based GIS Users Groups)	
f) National/Federal Geospatial Initiatives Update	
8. Next Meeting	
September 21, 2005	
9. Adjourn	

Mission Statement

“Provide an ongoing, stakeholder governed, metro-wide mechanism through which participants easily and equitably share geographically referenced data that are accurate, current, secure, of common benefit and readily usable.”

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Meeting Summary
MetroGIS Coordinating Committee
MN Counties Insurance Trust Bldg. – Room 205
March 30, 2005

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Read called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and asked the members to introduce themselves.

Members Present: *Cities:* Steve Lorbach (AMM: core cities - City of St. Paul) and Bob Cockriel (AMM: suburban cities - City of Bloomington); *Counties:* Scott Simmer (Hennepin), John Slusarczyk (Anoka), Randy Knippel (Dakota), David Claypool (Ramsey) and Jane Harper (Washington); *Federal:* Ron Wencil (USGS); *Metropolitan:* David Bitner (Metropolitan Airports Commission), Rick Gelbmann (Metropolitan Council), Nancy Read (Metropolitan Mosquito Control District), and Gordon Chinander (Metropolitan 911 Board); *Schools:* Dick Carlstrom (alternate for Lee Whitcraft; TIES); *Special Expertise:* Brad Henry (URS Corp.); *State:* Joella Givens (Mn/DOT), and Robert Maki (DNR); *Watershed/Water Management Organizations:* Ned Phillips (Rice Creek Watershed District); and *Utilities:* Al Laumeyer (CenterPoint Energy)

Members Absent: *Academics:* Will Craig (U of M); *Business Geographics:* Chet Harrison (CB Richard Ellis); *Counties:* Dave Drealan (Carver) and Jim Hentges (Scott); *GIS Consultants:* Terese Rowekamp (Rowekamp Associates); *Non-Profits:* [vacant]; and *State:* David Arbeit (LMIC)

Support Staff: Steve Fester, Randall Johnson, Mike Dolbow, and Mark Kotz (MetroGIS)

Visitors: Adam Baso (City of St. Paul)

2. ACCEPT AGENDA

Chairperson Read noted that to expedite the meeting Item 5c would be heard after 5a and that item 5b(3) would be held after 5b(1). The agenda was accepted as amended.

3. ACCEPT MEETING SUMMARY

Cockriel suggested that the word “schema” that was used in Section 5f (Existing Land Use) of the December 15, 2004 meeting summary should be replaced with a term that is more commonly used. Henry moved and Cockriel seconded to approve the summary for the Committee’s December 15, 2004 meeting, subject to modifying the term “schema”. Motion carried, ayes all.

4. SUMMARY OF JANUARY 26 POLICY BOARD MEETING

The Staff Coordinator summarized the major topics considered by the Policy Board at its January 26, 2005 meeting, as outlined in the Committee’s agenda materials.

5. ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Preliminary 2006 Budget Proposal

The Staff Coordinator summarized the 2006 budget request for MetroGIS’s “foster collaboration” function, as presented in the agenda materials. Mark VanderSchaaf, Director of Planning and Growth Management at the Metropolitan Council, commented that the Council is anticipating the need for budget cuts in 2006 and 2007 and that at this time the effect on MetroGIS’s budget request is unknown. He suggested adding this situation as a bullet to the listing of other uncertainties cited in the staff report when this topic is shared with the Policy Board. He noted that over the next couple of months a workgroup within the Council will hopefully be able to bring more clarity to this matter. He also mentioned that the internal Council workgroup would appreciate an opportunity to collaborate with the MetroGIS workgroup helping to prepare for the MetroGIS Strategic Planning Workshop proposed for this fall, as many of the

questions that have been suggested to help prospective participants prepare for the workshop are also relevant to the Council's internal review.

Motion:

Claypool moved and Givens seconded to direct staff to forward the budget request as set forth in the agenda materials to the Policy Board for its review and comment at the April Policy Board meeting.

b) Strategic Direction Retreat – Clarify Expectations

The Staff Coordinator summarized the staff report and commented that Professor John Bryson is available on September 22 and 23 to facilitate the event. The Committee was asked to set aside both dates for the time being.

In response to question from the Committee, the Staff Coordinator commented that the attendees have not been confirmed, other than in general terms that the Coordinating Committee and Policy Board members are the primary audience. The existing Workgroup that is responsible for preparations will decide the specifics. It was suggested that reference to "retreat" should be dropped given its negative implications. In jest, members offered "advance" and "Operation Enduring Sharing" to emphasize the need for more a more future-oriented event. The Committee also agreed that the private sector should be involved with the event as well as in its preparations and concurred that if Terese Rowekamp is willing, she would make an excellent representative.

c) Regional Solutions to Priority Information Needs

(1) Street Centerline Dataset: E911 Suitability Enhancements

Chinander provided an overview of the workgroup's efforts. Dolbow explained the workgroup's purpose, vision, objectives, definitions (expansion of TLG paradigm, not changing it), concepts of Core Geographic Unit and single official source, and the proposed vision in general.

In response to a question from Knippel about how the proposal ties into current efforts by Mn/DOT related to its Linear Reference Model (LRM) project, the group concurred that the potential exists to tie the two projects together, but the lack of address ranges in the Mn/DOT street centerline database is an impediment that needs to be resolved. All concurred that a good deal of duplication currently exists in the management of street centerline data and that a goal should be to ensure consistency with Mn/DOT's efforts to the maximum extent possible.

The group also concurred with Knippel's realization that the vision proposed by the Street Centerline Workgroup goes beyond typical GIS implementations and will involve agreement on intergovernmental policies to succeed. Staff affirmed that the workgroup concluded early on this would need to be the case to make any serious and long-term efficiency improvements. Chinander concurred, noting that the need to establish compliance with the Master Street Address Guide (MSAG) is an example of the need for effective lines of communication with the 911 community that have not been widespread in the past.

Laumeyer encouraged the group to consider involving utility interests as they also have emergency management needs and they, like the 911 community, need street and address data before the counties formally include plat information in their parcel systems. Laumeyer was offered an opportunity to participate in the workgroup and participate with the next phase of the effort.

In response to a question from Maki, Dolbow commented that the current regional street centerline dataset was endorsed for geocoding functions, not routing, noting that the topology is lacking for routing. He also commented that features important to the E911 community, such as ring roads at malls, trails, etc. are missing from the current regional street centerline dataset, and finally that the spatial accuracy in some cases is in need of improvement.

Claypool cautioned that inaccuracies in the location of city boundaries need to be taken into account and that the “go-to” authority to fix such inaccuracies is not necessarily easy to determine. Dolbow and Chinander noted they expect a number of these types of issues to arise as the details of the technical and organizational strategies begin to come together.

Knippel commented that this proposal will likely result in an expansion of the core street centerline data acknowledged as important to everyone versus that currently available via the current regional street centerline dataset. Wencil commented that Mn/DOT should be kept in the loop related to the concept of unique identifiers. He noted that he would like to eventually see address data attached to MnDOT’s data, that it be managed as a component of the LRM, and that the USGS have access. Givens commented that the current communication link between Dan Ross and Dolbow is likely the best way to achieve the desired coordination.

In response to a question from Maki, staff affirmed that the proposed vision for a federated (multi-participant) solution includes an emphasis on organizational roles and responsibilities necessary to create the desired data, as well as, secure commitments from organizations with the resources and needs to maintain its currency, in addition to defining the desired data components themselves.

Bitner encouraged the workgroup to investigate incorporation of Web Mapping and Web Feature Services into the proposed vision in addition to physical sharing of the actual data.

Motion:

Chinander moved and Wencil seconded to accept the vision proposed by the E911 and Street Centerline Workgroup, as outlined in the agenda materials and to direct the Workgroup to develop a proposal for the technical and organization components necessary to achieve the proposed vision. Motion carried, ayes all.

(3) Addresses – Occupiable Units Points Dataset

Chinander introduced the Occupiable Units Workgroup’s recommendation and then introduced Mark Kotz, the workgroup’s lead staff, to summarize the Workgroup’s purpose, scope, proposed definitions, results of its survey of address authorities, gap analysis efforts, recommended vision, and its justification.

Kotz commented that that the address components which exist for centerlines and parcels are not sufficient, and that that there is currently no means to track addresses at the unit level for buildings/units on a single site – a need that has been defined by the MetroGIS community, in particular the E911 community. Henry asked how the vision would deal with the room in which the Committee is currently meeting as a component of the larger building. Kotz responded by noting that the business rules to be more clearly defined before all of the specifics are worked out.

VanderSchaaf asked a question about enforcement that led to a broader discussion about MetroGIS’s role to support the forum through which organizations with the most need would work through the details. The Staff Coordinator emphasized that whatever solution(s) is arrived at in terms of both organizational structure and data specifics, participation would be on a voluntary basis with an emphasis on demonstrating benefits to candidates for participation.

Harper affirmed the value of pursuing a regional solution county-by-county, given the multiple related relationships that already exist among the counties and local governments that interact daily. She was also supportive of personalizing the incentives, as necessary, to address policy and procedure variations from county to county.

Knippel asked for clarification about how the proposed vision would be integrated with the many vendor systems that are already in place related to street centerline data. Chinander responded that he is confident that solid relationships with the vendor community will continue, given how the vendor

community has responded thus far. Harper surmised that if MetroGIS, in collaboration with the Metropolitan 911 Board, is able to agree on best practices, promotion of these agreed upon practices could help communities in their efforts to work with the vendor community.

Cockriel asked to what degree the occupiable unit and street centerline workgroups are coordinating their respective efforts. The Staff Coordinator commented that, by design, there are common members and that the lead staff frequently confer with one another, as is evidenced by their presentation at this meeting and the bringing of the topics to the Committee at the same time. Cockriel stated that he was encouraged to hear that the two efforts are so closely coupled and, as such, suggested that the addresses for occupiable units effort might be in a better position for funding and local support from the Public Safety community down the road if outreach efforts continue to closely couple these initiatives. Members of the Coordinating Committee not currently involved in these groups who are interested in participating were encouraged join one or both groups.

Motion:

Henry moved and Cockriel seconded to accept the vision, as presented in the agenda materials, and direct the Address Workgroup to begin work on development of a proposal for the technical and organization components necessary to achieve the subject vision.

Chairperson Read asked for permission to extend the meeting 15-20 minutes. Permission was so granted.

(2) Existing Land Use – Reconsideration (Tabled by Policy Board at January 26, 2005 Meeting)

Staff Coordinator Johnson commented that since the staff report had been distributed to the Committee members as part of the agenda packet, Metropolitan Council staff in the Planning and Growth Management Unit had determined that the LBCS-based Existing Land Use model is not needed to achieve the Council's purposes. Johnson noted that further investigation of the LBCS-based regional solution had been proposed in the staff report, provided an organization is willing to assume the role of regional custodian.

Mark VanderSchaaf, Director of Planning and Growth Management for the Metropolitan Council, commented on internal needs evaluation concerning the Council existing land use-related business needs. The current thinking is that the LBCS model goes beyond the Council's internal needs but they are supportive of the proposed prototyping to further investigate the concept in the event another interest(s) is willing to assume the regional custodian responsibilities. He asked that the report to the Policy Board be clear that the Council no longer considers itself a candidate to serve as the regional custodian for an LBCS-based solution.

Harper commented that she believes a window of opportunity exists to promote this LBCS-scheme as a voluntary tool for updating comprehensive plans. VanderSchaaf commented that Council management is not currently supportive of encouraging local government to utilize the LBCS model. Cockriel commented that he is amazed that the Council's Environmental Services Division has not endorsed this methodology for its ongoing efforts (e.g., the Regional Center Audit w/DNR and 10-year Water Conservation Emergency Plans), which, by their nature, are greatly enhanced by access to land use data that are normalized across jurisdictions.

Knippel commented that he believes that the topics of whether there is a community need for solution to a particular information need and the discussion about which organization(s) is willing to assume the custodian responsibilities need to be kept separate. Gelbmann added that the LBCS model has been given substantive consideration because it holds promise to address needs that have been identified by the community that go beyond the capabilities of the traditional hierarchical scheme.

Harper commented that the notion of postponing further action on an identified priority common information need due to the lack of an organization to champion a regional solution is among the topics

that should be central to the discussion at the proposed Strategic Planning Workshop, for which the theme is “are we done?” Should resource needs still be investigated? When should we reevaluate the information need premise?

As a result of questions raised by Knippel and Harper, the Committee concurred that the need for an Existing Land Use solution should be confirmed as a one-time event and that if a need still exists (as is expected to be the case), to decide at that time how best to address the organizational implications.

Motion:

Knippel moved and Claypool seconded to convene a one-time event, within the next six months, to affirm whether the MetroGIS community still believes a need exists for a regional solution to Existing Land Use information need. Motion carried, ayes all.

d) Performance Measures Anomaly Report

This item was not discussed due to a lack of time.

e) GIS Demonstration for April Policy Board meeting

Givens moved and Wencl seconded to invite Tim Anderson, with Barr Engineering, to be the presenter for GIS Demonstration topic at the April 20th Policy Board meeting. The topic will be the “How Watershed Districts are Benefiting from MetroGIS’s Efforts”. Motion carried, ayes all.

f) Regional GIS Projects – Call for 2005 Proposals

The Staff Coordinator summarized the call for proposals as outlined in the agenda materials. He emphasized that May 18 is the deadline for submission.

g) Non-Profit Vacancy – Coordinating Committee Seat

This item was not discussed due to a lack of time.

h) Policy on Forwarding Resumes to Committee Members

Chairperson Read asked that any members who do not want to receive requests for job opportunities (resumes, job postings, etc.) from job seekers via email should contact Steve Fester to opt-out. She commented that unless a Committee member asks for further discussion, no other action is anticipated with regard to this item.

6. PROJECT UPDATES

This item was not discussed due to a lack of time.

7. INFORMATION SHARING

This item was not discussed due to a lack of time.

8. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

June 29, 2005, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

9. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourn at 3:15 p.m.

Prepared by,

Randall Johnson, AICP
MetroGIS Staff



TO: Coordinating Committee

FROM: MetroGIS Staff
Contact: Randall Johnson (651-602-1638)

SUBJECT: Summary of April 2005 Policy Board Meeting

DATE: June 10, 2005
(For the June 29th Meeting)

The following major topics were considered/acted on by the Policy Board on April 27th. Refer to the meeting minutes (http://www.metrogis.org/teams/pb/meetings/05_0126/min.pdf) for the discussion points.

2006 MetroGIS Budget Request – Fostering Collaboration Role

The proposed 2006 MetroGIS funding request, as presented in the agenda materials for MetroGIS's efforts related to fostering collaboration (continuation of \$86,000 in project funding and 1.75 FTE in staff support) was unanimously approved to forward to the Metropolitan Council for consideration.

Strategic Directions Workshop and Business Plan Update

Chairperson Reinhardt and Board Member Schneider agreed to participate in the Strategic Directions Workshop planned for September 22. The Board also asked the Committee/staff to host a forum expressly for non-government interests prior the September 22 workshop. The purpose would be to identify challenges and partnership opportunities that the non-government community would like MetroGIS to consider at its Strategic Directions Workshop.

Vision – E911-Compliant Regional Street Centerline Dataset

None of the Board members expressed any opposition to the vision, as proposed by the Coordinating Committee. Also, no political issues were raised that had not been previously identified by the workgroup. Board members acknowledged the value of accomplishing the proposed vision and asked questions about the timing, whether areas beyond the seven-county region could be included, and existing data sources. Workgroup was encouraged to regularly revisit communities that initially elect to opt out (of the opportunity to participate as a primary producer of address data) to give them an opportunity to regularly reevaluate their decision in the event their circumstances change.

Vision - Regional Occupiable Units Data Solution

None of the Board members expressed any opposition to the vision, as proposed by the Coordinating Committee. As with the previous vision discussion, the Workgroup was encouraged to regularly revisit communities that initially elect to opt out to give them an opportunity to regularly reevaluate their circumstances.

Existing Land Use – Board Request for Additional Information

None of the Board members expressed opposition to the Committee's proposal to host a forum later this year to evaluate the user support for pursuing an LBCS-based, regional solution for the Existing Land Use Information Need.

Comparison of Objectives: NAZCA Solutions Software and MetroGIS

Board members concurred that the NAZCA product offers an example of collaborative opportunities not currently being considered by MetroGIS. He encouraged all associated with MetroGIS to investigate ways in which MetroGIS might pursue endeavors of this nature to broaden the community of those benefiting from MetroGIS's efforts.



TO: Coordinating Committee
FROM: MetroGIS Staff
Contact: Randall Johnson (651-602-1638)
SUBJECT: MetroGIS DataFinder Café- Upgrade Options
DATE: June 13, 2005
(For June 29th Meeting)

INTRODUCTION

Authorization is sought from the Coordinating Committee to create a workgroup to recommend a course of action concerning upgrading of DataFinder Café for consideration by the Committee at its September 2005 meeting.

SITUATION

DataFinder Café has been operational since July 2002. It has been running on the same server and in the same operating code environment since that time. An upward trend in use of DataFinder Café appears to be occurring. That is, recent use of Café accounted for a larger portion of total data download activity than in past; the other download option is via FTP. The percent of average monthly use over the last two years is 17 percent, whereas, the average over the past three months is 25 percent or 163 download events.

Although Café has proven to be generally reliable and stable, the current platform needs be upgraded to address the following needs/issues:

1. The server that Café is running on is old and lacks sufficient capacity. This situation is resulting in slower processing time than desirable. This result is particularly evident in the slower than desirable performance of the regional mailing label application.
2. Installation disks do not exist. The customized Café program was installed in June 2002 and the contractor subsequently made several on-site modifications to achieve full operational status in the current operating environment. There is no way to be certain that moving the existing code to another server can be accomplished without breaking Café.
3. The Java-based code written by the contractor to customize Café's functionality is not open source and the contractor that built Café is no longer in business. If a major crash occurs, Café's functionality will be lost.
4. Upgrades in component programs (ArcIMS and FME) that support Café's functionality are overdue. It is unknown whether upgrading any of these components would result in crashing Café, without a means to fix it. For instance, the newest release of Java is incompatible with Café's security module. Users who have installed previous versions of Java before installing the Café client are unaffected. Unfortunately, until this problem is resolved, new users of Café can only access the regional parcel and street centerline datasets via FTP procedures, which do not support subsetting prior to downloading.

DESIGN AND COST OPTIONS

A user survey was administered in May to help set priorities for functionality to be supported in an upgraded version (see Attachment A). Additional work is needed to define the next-generation philosophy for Café and how it will fit into a coordinated scheme of delivery of raw data, delivery of web services, and the given the growing interest in some GIS functionality – possibly some interactive querying of data hosted on DataFinder. Establishment of MetroGIS workgroup is proposed to evaluate needs and upgrade options pertaining to DataFinder Cafe.

Two in-progress surveys might also be of value to the proposed workgroup in its efforts to evaluate desired additional needs pertaining to Cafe: a) an E-government service study to assess the Metropolitan Council's needs and opportunities [See Agenda Item 7E(1)] and b) a study being conducted by the

Minnesota 3D initiative [See Agenda Item 7E(2)]. The next-generation DataFinder Café framework also should be consistent with the recently developed strategy for “brokering web services” promoted by the MN Governor’s Council on Geographic Information.

PROSPECTIVE FUNDING RESOURCES

Funding resources, available in 2005 that could be used toward upgrading DataFinder Café in 2005, range from \$17,200 to \$32,200, assuming all of the affected parties agree the upgrading is an appropriate use for these funds. While not anticipated, in the event either of the proposed Regional GIS Projects (Agenda Item 5b) does not proceed, up to an additional \$16,500 could be available for upgrading DataFinder Café for a total of \$48,700. The funding specifics are as follows:

a) Funds in 2005 operating budget: \$10,000

1. Funds budgeted for support of DataFinder. The current balance is **\$8,500**.
2. Budget funds in excess of actual expenses incurred - **\$1,500** to \$2,000.

b) Donated funds – currently no designated use: \$1,700

The current available balance is **\$1,700** (\$2,450, less \$750 that has been authorized for box lunches for the proposed Strategic Directions Workshop to be held on September 22).

c) Uncommitted Regional GIS Projects Funding: \$5,500

\$22,000 is budgeted for Regional GIS Projects Funding. The proposals submitted would utilize \$16,500 in 2005, if fully funded and assuming all of the parties are able to agree the proposed project(s) warrant funding at the levels proposed. (See Agenda Item 5b).

d) Grants/Partnerships: \$15,000

No partnership opportunities are currently anticipated, other than possible use of \$15,000 in grant funding previously received from the FGDC/NSDI to develop an Open Geography Consortium (OGC)-compliant Web Mapping Service (WMS) capability for DataFinder. Permission was subsequently received in 2003 to use these grant funds in collaboration with LMIC. Unfortunately, that collaborative venture had to be abandoned for reasons that included a proposed substantial cut in LMIC’s funding, which has since become reality. *Permission has been requested to utilize these funds to upgrade Café and make it fully OGC WMS compliant.* These funds may have to be returned if they cannot be used for the actual project for which they were received.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Coordinating Committee create a workgroup (and assign a liaison) and ask it to:

- 1) Supplement the existing user needs survey data as needed to fully document desired improvements in the form of functional design requirements and estimate the cost to accomplish these improvements.
- 2) If possible, seek out preliminary bids/quotes to accomplish the functional requirements.
- 3) If possible, present a recommendation for consideration by the Committee at its September 2005 meeting.

Attachment A

Results MetroGIS DataFinder Cafe User Survey May 2005

	Count	Percent
1. Your organization type:		
City, county, school, watershed, or regional government entity	20	57.14 %
State or federal government entity	9	25.71 %
Academic entity	3	8.57 %
Other	3	8.57 %
Total Responses	35	100 %
2. Jurisdictional authority (Where does your organization operate?)		
Completely within the seven county Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area	21	60.00 %
Within and beyond the seven county metropolitan area	10	28.57 %
Outside of the seven county metropolitan area	4	11.43 %
Total Responses	35	100 %
Are you the only person within your organization who uses DataFinder Cafe?		
Yes	17	48.57 %
No	18	51.43 %
Total Responses	35	100 %

4. How long has it been since you last used DataFinder Cafe?

A day	3	8.57 %
A week	5	14.29 %
A month	15	42.86 %
3 months	8	22.86 %
1 year	2	5.71 %
More than a year	2	5.71 %
Total Responses	35	100 %

5. How frequently do you use DataFinder Cafe?

Weekly	2	5.71 %
Monthly	12	34.29 %
Quarterly	17	48.57 %
Annually or less often	4	11.43 %
Total Responses	35	100 %

Count Percent

6. What data have you accessed via DataFinder Cafe in the past 12 months? Select all that apply.

(Not Answered)	2	0.85 %
Bus Routes or Bus Stops	8	3.40 %
Census Geography	15	6.38 %
County and Municipal Boundaries	23	9.79 %
Elevation Contours	7	2.98 %
Functional Class Roads	9	3.83 %
Generalized Land Use	14	5.96 %
Highway System 2025	2	0.85 %
Land Cover	11	4.68 %
Major Highways	14	5.96 %
Parcels	19	8.09 %
Planned Land Use	12	5.11 %
School Districts	10	4.26 %
Shopping Centers	2	0.85 %
Soils	7	2.98 %
Streams Network	9	3.83 %
TLG Street Centerlines	25	10.64 %
Transit Corridors	7	2.98 %
Water Features (lake or river polygons)	18	7.66 %
Watershed Management Organization Boundaries	9	3.83 %
ZIP Code Boundaries	11	4.68 %
Other	1	0.43 %
Total Responses	235	100 %

Other replies: PSAP & ESZ boundaries

8. What feature(s) would you like to see added to DataFinder Café?

- Personal geodatabase as a download data format option
- Use more OGC Mapserver liketools.
- aerials
- I would like to see the last feature promoted more, the one where any organization can share data. As for data, I'd like the mosquito control district to post updates of their wet areas layer.
- Southern Minnesota county landowner parcel data information.
- Higher resolution topographic data (LiDAR?).
- census data . children and others living in residence ages?
- Thank you so much for the excellent resource.
- Some files appear out of date. For instance, the future transitways shapefile seems to have things in there that are not official anymore.
- Can't think of any features...but would like to see Area Code Boundaries, Telco Boundaries, Railroad mile markers, river mile markers..etc

7. How valuable are the following DataFinder Café-related functions to your organization?

Directions: On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate the value to you of each of the following MetroGIS DataFinder Café functions. In determining the appropriate value, ask yourself “Do I use this function? Is it valuable to carrying out my job responsibilities? Does it save me time?”

Ranking Scale: 0- I do not use
 1- Little or no usefulness
 2 - somewhat useful
 3 – useful
 4 – highly useful
 5 – essential

Question	Average	0	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Response s
k. Use of Cafe to download “secure” datasets ? either TLG data and/or MetroGIS Parcel data (requires user name and password)	3.56	5	1	2	2	10	14	121	34
c. Browse (view) the dataset metadata records	3.38	6	0	4	3	7	14	115	34
j. When downloading data, the ability to download several datasets in a single bundle	3.38	4	1	1	8	12	8	115	34
a. Browse (view) the geographic data	3.32	6	0	2	7	7	12	113	34
b. Browse (view) the attribute data using the identify tool	3.12	7	0	2	7	9	9	106	34
l. Use of Cafe to download “non-secure” datasets - all other datasets available via anonymous login	3.09	7	1	2	6	8	10	105	34
d. Zoom to a predefined geographic area such as a municipality, county, school district or watershed district using gazetteer	2.62	8	2	1	11	8	4	89	34
f. When downloading data, the option to download subset the attributes or fields (meaning only selected fields are downloaded)	2.59	10	2	1	5	11	5	88	34
g. When downloading data, the clip data function using a self-defined geographic extent (where the user draws an ad-hoc polygon)	2.59	8	3	5	4	7	7	88	34
h. When downloading data, the clip data function using a predefined geographic extent (where the user selects a feature from another data layer such as a jurisdictional boundary as a cookie cutter?)	2.50	9	3	4	5	6	7	85	34
i. When downloading data, the clip data function using the clip to viewable extent option (the extent shown in the Cafe window clips the downloaded data)	2.12	10	3	7	6	3	5	72	34
e. When downloading data, the ability to specify data output format other than shapefile (e.g., MIF)	1.91	15	1	4	4	3	6	63	33
m. The ability to access data via a WMS (Web Mapping Service) format for use in a GIS web or desktop client	1.85	14	1	6	5	2	5	61	33
n. The service provided by DataFinder Cafe to distribute my organization’s data	1.75	16	1	5	1	3	6	56	32



Cooperation, Coordination, Sharing Geographic Data

TO: Coordinating Committee
FROM: MetroGIS Staff Support Team
Contact: Randall Johnson (651-602-1638)
SUBJECT: Regional GIS Project Proposals
DATE: June 20, 2005
(For June 29th Meeting)

INTRODUCTION

That the Coordinating Committee: a) offer comment as to the relative value to the community of each of three candidate proposals that have been submitted for consideration for funding as a Regional GIS Project (see definition below) and b) provide feedback to the applicants concerning any additional application information desired.

Each of the applicants has been asked to summarize their respective proposals at the Committee's June 29th meeting to insure that key aspects of each proposal are clearly understood. The application content requirements are presented in Attachment A. Additional background information is also provided in the Reference Section. The actual application submissions are attached in Attachment B.

AUTHORITY

MetroGIS's 2005 operating budget includes \$22,000 for Regional GIS Projects. The source of these funds is the Metropolitan Council as a line item in the 2005 budget. The Council is, therefore, the final decision-maker as to whether a proposed project is funded and for how much, as it is accountable for the appropriate use of these funds. MetroGIS's role is to advise the Council, if the Council wishes such advice, as to whether a candidate project has merit for further consideration.

On December 22, 2004, the seven metro area counties and the Metropolitan Council executed the 3rd generation Parcel Data Sharing Agreement. The concept of "Regional GIS Project" is embedded in the policy defined by this agreement. The definition of "Regional GIS Project" being as follows:

"...a MetroGIS project to enhance the completeness, documentation, or accuracy of an Endorsed Regional Dataset, develop a regional dataset to address a Policy Board endorsed priority common information need, or develop or enhance a geospatial application that enhances access to data which addresses a priority information need endorsed by MetroGIS."

In October 2003, as a component of the negotiations for the current GIS Data and Cost Sharing Agreements, the Policy Board adopted principals for funding Regional GIS Project Proposals. See Attachment C.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

Two of the subject proposals are addressed in this report. The third – DataFinder Café Upgrade - is the subject of Agenda Item 5a. Staff recommends that the DataFinder Café Upgrade be dealt with separately because other funding sources apply for support of DataFinder, as it is a core MetroGIS function.

All three proposals meet the minimum requirement of being related to an ongoing MetroGIS initiative. Each also requires more research to fully define the costs and design parameters. A summary of each follows:

PROPOSAL A: REGIONAL WEB-BASED GIS APPLICATION – PROVIDE UNIFORM GENERAL VIEW AND QUERY CAPABILITIES FOR REGIONAL DATA

Proposer and cost: This proposal is submitted by the County Data Producers Workgroup and has the support of each county. A one-time, \$16,000 purchase of existing software is proposed (currently operational at a county in South Carolina). The quoted fee is ½ the normal due the collaborative nature of this proposal.

Policy Consistency: The core concept of a common “look and feel” for the user (as they move from the regional website to the associated sites hosted by those counties that wish to host such a site) is consistent with the general direction called for in the current MetroGIS Business Plan. This concept is also consistent with a comment made by Policy Board member Tony Pistilli at the April Board meeting, which was agreed to by other members: “... encourage all associated with MetroGIS to investigate ways in which MetroGIS might pursue endeavors of this nature (NAZCA web-based application to easily access wide variety of parcel based information) to broaden the community of those benefiting from MetroGIS’s efforts.”

Benefit: An extremely valuable by-product of establishing the proposed common web-based interface is that its presence would result in subsequent wider spread normalization of data formats and standards across the Metro Area. This result could be viewed as of equal, and possibly greater importance, than the proposed application itself in terms of improvement in organizational efficiencies and reduction in duplication of effort that are the core of the collaboration principles fostered via MetroGIS’s effort.

PROPOSAL B: POPULATE ATTRIBUTES IN THE REGIONAL PARCEL DATASET

Proposer and cost: This proposal was submitted by the Metropolitan Council, in accordance with its role as custodian of the Regional Parcel Dataset. An expenditure of about \$500 is estimated in 2005, followed by an estimated expenditure of up to \$21,500 in 2006. (Note: There is no guarantee that the Council will authorize funding for Regional GIS Project proposal in 2006.) A motivation for this proposal is the Council’s preference to implement a variety of E-Government solutions to better serve its customers, as well as, improve internal efficiencies.

The first year (2005) would involve use of existing staff resources to complete the required investigation of need, research appropriate courses of action, and obtain buy-in from the counties regarding proposed data enhancements. (*Staff comment: It should be noted that funds are included in the main MetroGIS budget for “user satisfaction forums” that could be used to cover the proposed \$500 expenditure in 2005.*) The funds that would be expended in 2006 assume that at least some of the identified gaps in data consistency can be filled. It is expected that the requested funding would be used to compensate the counties to convert data maintained in currently non-compatible formats and for any programming or data collection that may be needed to accomplish the desired data consistency. Hiring a contractor to accomplish these tasks might also be an option depending on results of the proposed Phase I investigation.

Policy Consistency: The regional parcel dataset is a cornerstone of the MetroGIS endorsed regional datasets that have thus far been implemented to address common information needs. As noted in the applicant’s proposal, consistency of parcel attributes, across the seven counties, is among priority needs that users continually cite at user satisfaction forums. Such consistency is fundamental to the community’s ability to effectively develop applications, which run on regional data.

Benefit: This proposal is a sign of the community’s maturity and a result of the collaborative data policies that have already been implemented via MetroGIS’s efforts. Continued improvement in the consistency of parcel attributes would continue to expand upon the functionality possible with the web-based applications, such as outlined in this proposal. The regional mailing label application is an example of the power of what can be accomplished if data producers continue to endorse collaborative approaches to addressing common information needs via regional data solutions.

PROPOSAL C: UPDATE DATAFINDER CAFE

Proposer and cost: This proposal was submitted by the Metropolitan Council, in accordance with its role as regional custodian for MetroGIS DataFinder. The \$22,000 cost estimate would be firmed up as part of the proposed additional research.

Support of DataFinder, as a core function of MetroGIS, involves ongoing budgeted expenses. Therefore, this proposal can be viewed somewhat differently than the other two proposals, as other sources of funding exist for on-going support. However, it is important to note that funds currently budgeted for ongoing maintenance expenses are likely not insufficient to accomplish the upgrades identified in this proposal.

Given that other funding sources exist, this proposal is addressed separately in Agenda Item 5a. It is important to note that recommendation for a specific course of action for DataFinder Café is requested via recommendation from a special purpose workgroup at the September Committee meeting.

DISCUSSION

Each of the three proposals is consistent with MetroGIS policy and each would benefit the community, if achieved. Therefore, each warrants further consideration. Notwithstanding, each also requires additional research to refine the specific needs, appropriate courses of action, and budget requirements before a final funding allocation decision can be made. Depending upon the results of the recommended additional research, it is conceivable that more than one of these projects could be pursued, possibly all three, given the phasing that is proposed for Project B.

To expedite the timeliness of a final decision, relative to the proposed project schedules, if the Council wishes to consider a recommendation from MetroGIS, staff recommends that the Committee's discussion on June 29th and any comments that might be offered by the Policy Board on July 20th be the basis of MetroGIS's input. Those comments being an opinion on the relative merit of each project and feedback to the proposers about elements of the proposal that should be more fully addressed.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Coordinating Committee:

- 1) Conclude that all three 2005 Regional GIS Project proposals have merit for further consideration
- 2) Offer an opinion as to the relative order of priority from a community perspective.
- 3) Provide feedback to the proposers regarding additional information desired to finalize the respective proposals (user needs, technical design, costs via appropriate competitive processes, etc.)

REFERENCE SECTION

GENERAL BACKGROUND – REGIONAL GIS PROJECTS

2005 is the first year that Regional GIS Project Proposals have been sought from members of active MetroGIS workgroups and committees. Prior to 2005, funds to undertake regionally significant GIS projects were incorporated into the GIS Data and Cost Sharing Agreements, which were executed between the Council and the counties, because the highest priority needs generally involved parcel data and related access procedures.

During negotiations for the current 2004-2008 Data Sharing Agreement with the seven counties, the premise was accepted by the parties that data produced by stakeholders, other than the counties, and associated application needs would likely be among the community's priorities and that a wide variety of candidate projects should have equal access to these project seed funds.

METROGIS POLICY BOARD ROLE IN DECISION PROCESS

As with other MetroGIS budget/expense related decisions that involve project funding, the organization from which the funding is received and accountable for the appropriate use of these funds and, therefore, has the final decision as to whether a project is funded and the amount involved. In the case of the subject Regional GIS Projects, the Council's procurement rules must also be followed in the event a project involves an RFP, purchase of goods, etc. The Policy Board's role is to advise the Council, if the Council wishes such advice, as to whether a project(s) has merit, is consistent with current MetroGIS priorities, and which has the greatest benefit to the community as a whole.

ATTACHMENT A

MetroGIS

Cooperation, Coordination, Sharing Geographic Data



CALL FOR 2005 FUNDING CANDIDATES -REGIONAL GIS PROJECTS -

What Projects are Eligible for Funding?

Only projects that satisfy the objectives of a Regional GIS Project and are associated with a currently authorized MetroGIS workplan activity are eligible for funding. A Regional GIS Project is defined as:

"... a MetroGIS project to enhance the completeness, documentation, or accuracy of an Endorsed Regional Dataset, develop a regional dataset to address a Policy Board endorsed priority common information need, or develop or enhance a geospatial application that enhances access to data which addresses a priority information need endorsed by MetroGIS."

How Much Funding is Available?

The 2005 MetroGIS budget allocates \$22,000 for funding of Regional GIS Projects.

What Criteria Will Be Used To Decide Which Project(s) Are Funded?

The applicant's written responses to each of the following evaluation criteria will be used to decide if a project should be funded:

- Statement of project objective and why the requested funding is needed
- How the proposed project aligns with a Regional GIS Project objective(s)
- Importance of the proposed project to implementing a sustainable solution to a defined geospatial community need(s)
- Activities necessary to achieve the project objective and how the requested funds apply
- Breadth of core MetroGIS stakeholder organizational interests supporting the proposal
- Total value and type of required resources that would be leveraged if funding is awarded
- Effect of receiving funding approval for less than the full amount requested
- Time frame for project completion

The full submission should not exceed 2 pages, excluding any supplemental materials.

Who Will Decide and When?

The Coordinating Committee is tentatively scheduled to consider project proposals at its June 2005 meeting. The Policy Board would then consider the Committee's recommendation at its July 2005 meeting. If any funds remain unallocated, another round of proposals would be sought prior to the year's end. Contracts for services must also meet the Metropolitan Council's procurement rules.

Who is Eligible to Submit a Proposal?

Any individuals affiliated with authorized MetroGIS projects, committees and workgroups.

What is the Deadline for Submission?

Applications must be received by Wednesday, May 18. Applications are to be submitted in digital form to Randall Johnson, MetroGIS Staff Coordinator (randy.johnson@metc.state.mn.us).

ATTACHMENT B

A copy of the each of the following proposals is provided in the following order:

PROPOSAL A: REGIONAL WEB-BASED GIS APPLICATION – PROVIDE UNIFORM GENERAL VIEW AND QUERY CAPABILITIES FOR REGIONAL DATA

PROPOSAL B: POPULATE ATTRIBUTES IN THE REGIONAL PARCEL DATASET

PROPOSAL C: UPDATE DATAFINDER CAFÉ

PROPOSAL A

2005 MetroGIS Regional GIS Project Proposal

Objective

To acquire, develop, and maintain a regional web-based GIS application to provide uniform general view and query capabilities for regional data. The product would be an application that runs on regional data sets, supplemented by individual county applications that have additional capabilities and/or detail.

A. Project Description

The Met Council would host an application with the query capabilities agreeable to all MetroGIS partners. Each county would host enhanced data and query capabilities as necessary to accommodate their business needs. Although this approach would use 8 separate web sites, the project objective is to maintain a consistent look and feel among all sites, creating a more seamless user experience than currently exists.

This would be accomplished through a single application, shared by the Metropolitan Council and all 7 metro counties, including source code that would be maintained and extended through a collaborative partnership. Currently, each county and the Met Council develop and maintain their own applications, occasionally sharing code to streamline individual development efforts. The proposed approach would give the Met Council and counties a common application with a rich set of core capabilities, allowing each organization to concentrate resources on enhancements rather than each developing code for core capabilities.

This proposal is based on an ArcIMS client application developed for Greenwood County, South Carolina. An employee of the county developed it on his own time. He has permission from the county to remarket this application. His price includes a license to use the application and all related source code. Licensees are restricted from reselling it to anyone. He also offers training and custom programming services. Other options to meet the project objective would also be evaluated.

Approach

A workgroup of Met Council and county staff would review and recommend enhancements. Initial consideration would be given to implementing the core capabilities. The initial phase would include policy level discussions between the counties and MetroGIS. The workgroup will determine and design enhancements that would allow the application to continue to be shared by all partners. While any partners will always have the option of developing enhancements on their own, the intent would be to do so only on an exception basis to preserve the consistent user experience and allow for on-going collaboration.

Steps in process:

- Explore what counties currently have
- Determine what the counties and users need
- Evaluate viable products for meeting the most needs
- Decide upon the desired product and negotiate with the provider

Cost

We have received a verbal quote of \$16,000 for the Greenwood County product. This price includes 8 licenses (1 for the Metropolitan Council and 1 for each of the 7 metro counties) and 2 days of technical training for technical staff of each licensee. All source code is provided and licensees are allowed to customize it as they see fit. It should be noted that this price is half the normal price for individual customers.

Rationale for Project

- Furthers the MetroGIS Goals

This project would address Item C, Task 1 in the MetroGIS 2005 Work Plan: *“Task 1: Identify existing geospatial applications and post to “Application Finder”.*”

It would take MetroGIS to the next level in its evolution from finding data (Data Finder) to accessing and downloading data (Data Café) to gaining information from data through a query function. With each step in this evolution, MetroGIS partners have taken advantage of state-of-the-art technology to provide users with geographically referenced data. State-of-the-art technology now makes it possible, through Web-based applications, to query data and produce a map without downloading the data. This project would make use of that state-of-the-art technology.

The MetroGIS Business Plan recognizes the need to move to this next level to meet greater user expectations. It states:

From its inception, the focus of MetroGIS has been on data sharing, rather than applications. Work on geodata applications for data analysis has been considered low priority (however, applications for data discovery and distribution have been developed - DataFinder and DataFinder Café.) Technology and user expectations have changed over time with increased interest in more direct access to user-friendly information. This change has elevated applications to a higher priority level for the region.

As the quality of geodata improves and becomes more accessible, more people are finding ways to use this data to improve decision-making. Governmental units, businesses, non-profits, and private citizens can all benefit by having access through application software to the information that can be derived from geospatial datasets.

The issue of applications is also being raised at the national level, as high quality data becomes more available and users see new opportunities for creating better information to support decision-making.

- Saves staff time devoted to application development

As the demand for access to geographic information increases and the complexity of associated applications increases, it is imperative that we find smarter ways to get the job done. GIS applications are complex, and building them from scratch each time is costly, requires highly skilled developers and architects, involves inherently risky development, takes longer to complete, and results in inconsistent applications. A query application that can serve as a development framework tool such as that referenced in this proposal would provide reusable code to solve many of the common web application needs. This dramatically reduces the complexity and development lifecycle required to create an application.

- Enhances User Experience

Conclusion

The MetroGIS Policy Board provided direction at its July 2002 meeting by stating that the world of applications could be boundless, and therefore, MetroGIS should move slowly using a gradual and incremental approach. This project would allow the MetroGIS partners to explore using a collaborative approach to procuring common applications with minimal cost and little risk.

This project exemplifies the values recognized in the following quotes taken from the recent MetroGIS Annual Report:

Citizens want value from government: effective, efficient services that demonstrate results. Sometimes, services are most effectively provided at the local levelBut sometimes, services are more effectively and efficiently provided at a higher level.

In order to maximize the benefit of GIS technology and minimize the costs, governments in the Twin Cities metropolitan area work together in a regional collaborative ... Their goal is to promote and facilitate GIS data-sharing in order to reduce data development and acquisition costs, improve data quality, leverage technology investments, promote best practices, and foster broader intergovernmental cooperation.

Contact for Proposal

Randy Knippel, GIS Manager, Dakota County Office of GIS, Western Service Center, 14955 Galaxie Ave.

Apple Valley, MN 55124

randy.knippel@co.dakota.mn.us

phone: 952-891-7080

PROPOSAL B

MetroGIS

Cooperation, Coordination, Sharing Geographic Data



REGIONAL GIS PROJECT - PROPOSAL FOR 2005 FUNDING: Populating Attributes in the Regional Parcel Dataset

Introduction

In 2004, an enhanced standard was adopted for the [Regional Parcel Dataset](#) as provided to MetroGIS users by the 7 metropolitan counties. The standard took effect with the first release of the dataset in 2005.

With 36 new standard attribute fields in addition to the original 29 fields, the potential to analyze parcel-based information across the metropolitan area has more than doubled. However, this potential is currently unrealized, as only 13 of the 65 standard attribute fields are fully populated across all seven counties (Table 1). MetroGIS staff have identified which fields are not fully populated by each county (see Page 3 of the [Parcel Data Attribute Description](#)) using the most recent release (April 2005) of the regional parcel data set.

Objectives

The objectives of this proposed project are to populate priority attributes in the regional parcel data set using the following steps:

1. Estimate the costs of populating a subset of those attributes,
2. Weigh those costs against the prioritized needs of the MetroGIS community to identify a list of attributes that can likely be populated within a given budget.
3. Make funds available to help populate the identified attributes.

Table 1. Parcel attributes fully populated* across all seven counties.

Regional Parcel Attribute	Anoka	Carver	Dakota	Hennepin	Ramsey	Scott	Washington
Unique County ID	100%	99.9%	99.9%	100%	99.7%	98.5%	100%
Unique Parcel ID	100%	100%	97%	99.6%	99.8%	100%	98%
House Number	85%	87%	84%	99.6%	94%	83%	75%
Street Name	85%	87%	84%	99.6%	99.7%	83%	75%
City (actual)	100%	99.9%	97%	99.6%	99.8%	98.5%	94%
City (mailing)	92%	88%	84%	96.1%	99.7%	83%	75%
ZIP Code	72%	88%	84%	96.1%	99.7%	83%	76%
Homestead Status	99%	99%	97%	100%	99.6%	98%	100%
Estimated Market Value - Land	95%	98%	97%	94.8%	95%	97%	95%
EMV - Buildings	81%	82%	86%	91.1%	99.7%	76%	74%
EMV - Total	95%	98%	97%	94.8%	99.4%	97%	95%
School District	99%	99.9%	97%	99.4%	99.7%	98%	96%
Watershed District	99.8%	99.9%	97%	69.5%	99.7%	98%	79%

*an attribute is considered fully populated if at least 50% of records in the file contain pertinent information

Project Activities, Schedule & Funding

The first two project objectives would be accomplished through the combined efforts of MetroGIS staff and county staff. Activities for this part of the project include defining and estimating costs for populating each attribute, identifying best methods to complete the work, prioritizing work to populate attributes and developing a plan to accomplish the work.

The project would use the entire \$22,000 available for MetroGIS projects. Most of the costs (estimated \$21,000) would be used to pay for programming, database design, data sharing coordination and as needed data compilation. The remaining funds (\$1,000) would be used for meeting, forum and evaluation expenses.

Task	Completion Date	Project Funds
<i>Measure % of attributes populated (Appendix A).</i>	<i>Completed</i>	<i>\$0</i>
Technical Expertise Forum: sharing methodologies for database design, linkage, & information flow.	August 31, 2005	\$500
Develop methodology and cost estimates within each county to populate each attribute.	November 31, 2005	\$0
Prioritize attributes to populate.	January 31, 2006	\$0
Populate priority attributes	August 31, 2006	\$21,000
Project evaluation of results, materials, meeting rooms, and other expenses.	October 31, 2006	\$500
Totals		\$22,000

Effect of Lower Funding Award

The project funds required to populate attributes is only estimated at this time. If less is made available, then fewer attributes are likely to be populated. It is also likely that funding levels below a certain threshold would make it difficult to achieve results that justify the organizational effort. More research is required to determine this threshold.

Alignment with Core MetroGIS Stakeholder Interests

One definition of a Regional GIS Project is “a MetroGIS project to enhance the completeness, documentation, or accuracy of an Endorsed Regional Dataset.” This project would significantly enhance the completeness of the Regional Parcel Dataset, which is part of the Endorsed Regional Solution for four common information needs.

In the September 2003 Regional Parcel Data Users’ Forum, “Attribute Consistency” across the seven counties was identified as a priority need (needed by many MetroGIS stakeholders), and was considered critical to the mission of at least one participating agency. This project’s main goals of enhancing the completeness and consistency of the Regional Parcel Data set align with the goals of the greater MetroGIS community.

PROPOSAL C

MetroGIS

Cooperation, Coordination, Sharing Geographic Data



REGIONAL GIS PROJECT - PROPOSAL FOR 2005 FUNDING:

Upgrade DataFinder Café

Introduction. On July 11, 2001, the MetroGIS Policy Board endorsed the project objectives to design and implement a secure Internet-based data distribution mechanism for the MetroGIS community as a way to automate MetroGIS's data distribution process. The resulting application, DataFinder Café, was officially rolled out at the MetroGIS Policy Board's July 2002 meeting.

Fifteen percent of the total data downloads from DataFinder are from the Café component. This equals about 95 downloads per month. The remaining 85 % of the downloads are via FTP. The key benefits of using the Café over FTP are 1) a user may subset the data by a predefined or custom geographic area as well as subset by attribute, 2) a user can pick from multiple formats, including shape file, DXF, etc., and 3) a user can download multiple datasets in one bundle. The Café works with both unlicensed and licensed (password required) datasets. In addition, the Café outputs WMS (web mapping services) in a format that can be used by agencies, such as The National Map.

The Café relies on ArcIMS and Java Web Start software, both of which have had multiple upgrades since Café was released. The Café application itself has not been upgraded since its initial deployment and as a result several issues have arisen: 1) New versions of Java do not support security functionality in the Café; 2) Newer ArcIMS features are unavailable to the Café or other MetroGIS and Metropolitan Council web-based GIS applications; 3) The WMS format no longer meets the standard; and 4) There is no support available for the Café. We cannot easily resolve these issues because the company that designed Café, Syncline, Inc., is no longer in business.

Objectives. Upgrade or replace the DataFinder Café software using the following steps:

1. Obtain input on Café functionality and usage from a user survey (already in progress by MetroGIS staff).
2. Reevaluate Café functionality based on user needs from survey.
3. Evaluate off-the-shelf software to see if anything meets these needs, and if not, research custom development options.
4. Purchase and install a new system to replace Café software. Special attention will be paid to the ongoing support and sustainability of the Café component of DataFinder.

Alignment with Core MetroGIS Stakeholder Interests. This project will provide ongoing support for the Café, which provides an easy and secure way to extract custom-defined MetroGIS-endorsed data. This will meet the objective of the Regional GIS Project that states “To assist data producers in performing primary custodial responsibilities, which have been endorsed by the Policy Board that exceed internal business functions, including extracting, documenting, manipulating, and delivering these data to the regional custodian.”

Resources and Timeframe. This proposal requests the full \$22,000 to use for the purchase of an upgrade or replacement for DataFinder Café software. It is unclear at this point how much the total project will cost and so it is unknown how a lesser award would affect the outcome.

The timeline for this project is that the user survey and subsequent analysis will be complete by early June. The research of possible solutions will be performed over the summer of 2005, with a potential RFP and decision being made in Fall 2005.

ATTACHMENT C

Principles for Allocating MetroGIS's Data Quality and Access Enhancement Funds (Regional GIS Projects)

(Adopted October 2003 – MetroGIS Policy Board)

Introduction

The following principles are to serve as the basis for allocating a portion of the MetroGIS budget to data producers, serving in their role as primary custodians for data that comprise regional data solutions (e.g. counties related to parcel data). They are intended to supplement and expand upon, not supersede, the more general principles¹ that have governed MetroGIS's efforts for some time.

Data Quality and Access Enhancement Funding Principles

The following principles are to be embedded in the annual MetroGIS budget, and be approved as part of the budget approval process. Currently (*prior to 2004*) the only such recipients of these enhancement project funds are the counties, though it is anticipated that other organizations will serve in similar capacities for regional data solutions that have not as yet been defined.

- 1) Receipt of these funds by a data producer is not a payment for data but rather for services performed of importance to the broad MetroGIS community.
- 2) Funding can also be for specific data enhancements, which are to be identified through a forum of data users and producers, in a manner that is consistent with past, broadly participatory, MetroGIS processes.
- 3) The purpose of this funding is four-fold:
 - To recognize the importance to the MetroGIS community of participation by producers of data that are critical components to regional solutions (e.g. parcel data produced by the seven metro area counties).
 - To assist data producers in performing primary custodial responsibilities, which have been endorsed by the Policy Board that exceed internal business functions, including extracting, documenting, manipulating, and delivering these data to the regional custodian.
 - To finance data quality and access enhancements, defined through MetroGIS's processes.
 - To assist data producers with costs associated with sharing of information about what was learned and the outcome of data enhancement projects in accordance with a MetroGIS core function to foster sharing of knowledge.
- 4) Data Producers have the option of pooling funds allocated to other Data Producers for purposes of conducting projects that will have mutual benefit to the producers and to data users.

Note: On December 22, 2004, the seven metro area counties and the Metropolitan Council executed the 3rd generation parcel data sharing agreement. The concept of "Regional GIS Project" is embedded in the policy defined by this agreement. The definition being as follows:

"Regional GIS Project" means a MetroGIS project to enhance the completeness, documentation, or accuracy of an Endorsed Regional Dataset, develop a regional dataset to address a Policy Board endorsed priority common information need, or develop or enhance a geospatial application that enhances access to data which addresses a priority information need endorsed by MetroGIS."

¹ The following principles governed MetroGIS's efforts. They have evolved over time as a product of decision-making and desired outcomes.

- a) No organization will be asked to perform a task for the collaborative that they do not have an internal need to perform.
- b) Build once, share many times (data and applications).
- c) Investments made by one government interest ought to be leverageable by other government interests.
- d) All relevant and affected interests participate, dominated by none.
- e) Widespread sharing of the data improves data quality and ultimately decision support.
- f) Cost recovery of data development expenses stifles sharing of commonly needed data.



TO: Coordinating Committee
FROM: MetroGIS Staff
Contact: Randall Johnson (651-602-1638)
SUBJECT: GIS Technology Demonstration – July 2005 Policy Board Meeting
DATE: June 10, 2005
(For June 29th Meeting)

INTRODUCTION

The Coordinating Committee is requested to agree on a GIS Technology Demonstration topic and a person(s) to present that topic at the Policy Board's July 27 meeting.

PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED CANDIDATE DEMONSTRATION TOPICS

1. County GIS activities: During the agenda setting meeting for the January 2004 Policy Board meeting, Chairperson Reinhardt commented that she would like to hear again how the counties, particularly those with enterprise GIS programs, are using GIS and benefiting from collaboration. She would prefer one or two in-depth presentations, as opposed to 5-7 minute overviews, from each county at a single Board meeting. Since then, Dakota and Scott Counties have made presentations.
2. GIS related work at the U of M: At the September 2004 Coordinating Committee meeting, the following options were identified:
 - An evacuation routing program that has been presented and was well received by elected officials on the national scene.
 - An NFS grant funded project involving analysis of historic census data.
3. Prototype MetroGIS Emergency Preparedness Website. This option was identified at the June 2004 Committee meeting. However, it was determined to be premature to demonstrate this site until the organizational components are agreed upon, which is currently in process. Staff comment: the Committee may wish to demonstrate this site as part of the recommendation to the Policy Board.
4. Ramsey County GIS User Group's Internet Mapping Service (IMS) site. The Staff Coordinator has spoken with David Windle and he has agreed to demonstrate this website if the Committee and the User Group wish him to do so. The site is located at <http://maps.metro-inet.us/RamseyCoGIS/DisclaimerRCPublic.htm>.

DISCUSSION

Selecting the Ramsey County GIS User Group's Internet Mapping Service (IMS) site for the demonstration topic at the July Board meeting, would be timely for two reasons: 1) show the Board functionality that is currently operational, given the recent upsurge in interest to pursue regional solutions to commonly needed geospatial web-based applications and 2) acknowledge the leadership that David Windle has provided to the community before he leaves the region, returning to his homeland of Australia.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Coordinating Committee agree on a GIS Technology Demonstration topic and a person(s) to present that topic at the July 27, 2005 Policy Board meeting.

REFERENCE SECTION

PAST POLICY BOARD DEMONSTRATION TOPICS:

- Apr. 2005: How Watershed Districts are Benefiting from MetroGIS's efforts
- Jan. 2005: Regional Mailing Application
- Oct. 2004: Improving Operational Effectiveness with GIS - Dakota County's Experience
- Jul. 2004: City of Roseville's Combined Use of Socioeconomic Data and GIS Technology to Improve Decision Making and Service Delivery
- Apr. 2004: Metro 911 Board initiative to integrate GIS into day-to-day operations of 27 Metro Area PSAPs
- Jan 2004: Scott County's Use of GIS technology to improve intra-department efficiencies
- Oct. 2003: GASB34 – GIS Technology's Relevance
- Jul. 2003 Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System use of GIS and data sharing activities
- Apr. 2003 Metropolitan Mosquito Control District use of GIS and benefits from MetroGIS
- Jan. 2003: Emergency Management Response applications developed by Carver and Washington Counties.
- Oct. 2002: Metropolitan Airports Commission use of GIS and benefits from MetroGIS
- Jul. 2002: MetroGIS DataFinder Café Rollout
- Mar. 2002: Presentations from each metro county regarding their respective GIS programs
- Jan. 2002: GIS's Role In Responding To The World Trade Center Tragedy – Mapping Ground Zero (*Paul Olson, Grand Rapids Office of the Minnesota DNR - Division of Forestry*)
- Oct. 2001: TIES – Benefits to School Districts as a result of MetroGIS
- Jul. 2001: DataFinder And Functionality Sought Via Proposed Internet-Enabled Data Distribution Mechanism (*since named DataFinder Café*)
- Apr. 2001: LMIC's Metro viewer software: A Mapping Tool for the Public
- Jan. 2001: Regional Census Geography and Legislative Redistricting Software/Process
- Oct. 2000: North Metro I-35W Corridor Coalition's Socio-Demographic Database Development
- Jul. 2000: DataFinder and Council's Internet-based Existing Land Use Application
- Apr. 2000: Regional Parcel Dataset (Version 1)
- Jul. 1999: Presentation to House of Representatives Subcommittee on June 9th
- Apr. 1999: North Metro I-35W Corridor Coalition GIS Capabilities
- Nov. 1998: Orthoimagery and its Uses
- Sep. 1998: DataFinder and Dakota County's Parcel Query Application
- Jan. 1997: Benefits from GIS in general and uses being made by all classes of stakeholders represented on the Policy Board.



TO: Coordinating Committee
FROM: MetroGIS Staff
Contact: Randall Johnson (651-602-1638)
SUBJECT: Fill Non-Profit Representative Seat on Committee
DATE: June 7, 2005
(For June 29th Meeting)

INTRODUCTION

The Coordinating Committee is respectfully requested to fill the non-profit representative vacancy created when Sandra Paddock left Wilder Research and subsequently resigned from the Committee.

INTERESTED CANDIDATE

Jeff Corn, Community Development Coordinator for the Longfellow Community Council in Minneapolis and co-chair of the Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System (MNIS), responded to the call for candidates to represent non-profit interests on the Coordinating Committee.

Mr. Corn's statement of interest is attached, as is the recommendation from Kris Nelson (CURA) that we contact Mr. Corn. Mr. Corn's credentials are consistent with expectations set forth in MetroGIS' Operating Guidelines.

BACKGROUND

Sandra Paddock left Wilder Research last fall. At that time, suggestions were solicited from the Coordinating Committee and others familiar with the non-profit community as to how to best go about recruiting a new representative from the non-profit community. Member Craig contacted Kris Nelson, also with CURA, who works closely with the MNIS organization. MNIS' membership is comprised of a variety of non-profits and neighborhood development organizations that utilize GIS technology to support a variety of community development-related activities. A call was subsequently put out within the MNIS organization. Jeff Corn responded to that call for candidates.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE

MetroGIS Operating Guidelines do not prescribe how the Committee goes about filling vacancies in its membership. The Guidelines do, however, state that "The Coordinating Committee shall be responsible for selecting organizations or individuals to represent each of the approved general interest categories". These categories are listed in the operating guidelines, which include non-profits. The guidelines also provide guidance related to characteristics that the Committee should look for in selecting its members. (See the attached excerpt from MetroGIS' Operating Guidelines. The complete guidelines can also be viewed at http://www.metrogis.org/about/history/ops_guidelines.pdf).

In the past, interested candidates have been asked to submit statement of interest in serving. As noted above, Mr. Corn statement is attached. The candidate(s) is then invited to attend a Coordinating Committee meeting, at which Committee members have an opportunity to meet them. In the past, the Committee then asks the candidate(s) to leave the room while it discuss their credentials and decides whether or not to accept them as a member.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Coordinating Committee confer with Jeff Corn about his interest in serving on the Committee as the non-profit representative and decide whether or not to fill this membership vacancy at this time.

CANDIDATES'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

From: Jeff Corn <jeff@longfellow.org>
To: randy.johnson@metc.state.mn.us
Date: 5/10/05 4:11PM
Subject: Metro GIS Coordinating Committee

Nancy Read
Chair, Metro GIS Coordinating Committee

Dear Nancy:

I understand that you are seeking a non-profit representative on the Metro GIS Coordinating Committee. I am interested in the position and believe that I could bring a valuable perspective to the committee.

I am the Community Development Coordinator for the Longfellow Community Council (LCC), a Minneapolis neighborhood group. I also serve as a member of the M3D Steering Committee and am co-chair of the Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System (MNIS). I use GIS weekly in my work with LCC and appreciate the importance of community GIS, especially to small non-profit organizations.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me should you require further information.

Very Truly Yours,

Jeff Corn
Community Development Coordinator
Longfellow Community Council
Co-Chair Minneapolis Neighborhood Information Systems
(612) 722-4529

CC: Kris Nelson <neldo193@umn.edu>, Will Craig <wcraig@umn.edu>

RECOMMENDATION

From: Kris Nelson <neldo193@umn.edu>
To: <randy.johnson@metc.state.mn.us>
Date: 5/6/05 4:57PM
Subject: Non profit representative

Randy,

I recommend Jeff Corn for the non-profit representative for the MetroGIS Coordinating Committee. In addition to serving as a member of the M3D Steering Committee, Jeff is co-chair of the Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System (MNIS). MNIS is a Consortium of Minneapolis community organizations that have worked to increase access to public data for use in community planning and development; increase GIS capacity, and have partnered with CURA and the City of Minneapolis to establish the data download site and the online Early Warning System application. Jeff has been an important leader in public policy discussions and a strong advocate for community GIS.

He will make a great addition to the Metro GIS Coordinating Committee. Please call me if you would like to discuss this further....

Best regards,

Kris

--

Kris S. Nelson
NPCR Program Director
CURA, University of MN
330 HHH Center
301 19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455
612/625-1020
<http://www.npcr.org>

CC: Will Craig <wcraig@umn.edu>

Excerpt

MetroGIS Operating Guidelines

Article III

Coordinating Committee

Section 2. Composition

The Policy Board shall approve the interest categories to be represented by the members of the Coordinating Committee. The approved interest categories shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, essential participant stakeholders, government that serves the metro area, academic institutions, **non-profit organizations that serve as adjunct resources for local government**, non-government providers of essential public services, private sector GIS consultants and 'business geographics' interests, and other interests important to the long term success of MetroGIS.

The Coordinating Committee shall be responsible for selecting organizations or individuals to represent each of the approved general interest categories. To qualify for consideration, candidate organizations, classes of organizations, and individuals must: 1) be an essential participant stakeholder or a system enhancer stakeholder or 2) possess special expertise or knowledge important to the MetroGIS mission not provided by another member.

Each Coordinating Committee member is encouraged to seek appointment of an alternate. Designation of an alternate member shall be by the governing body of the respective stakeholder organization. Designated alternate members are encouraged to attend Committee meetings, voting only in the absence of the primary representative.

Committee member selection shall be subject to the following guidelines (*only those that directly*):

- Members of the Coordinating Committee shall include a variety of government, academic, utility, **non-profit**, and private-sector perspectives. Producers and users of geographic information and a **diversity of operational areas important to the long-term success of MetroGIS shall be represented.**
- Persons representing academic, for-profit, and non-profit interests may comprise up to thirty (30) percent of the Committee's membership.
- Members **who represent broad communities**, as opposed to single organizations, are expected to **make an attempt to bring the communities' ideas and concerns to MetroGIS's deliberations** but they are not expected to establish regular, formalized communication channels with their broad communities.



TO: Coordinating Committee

FROM: MetroGIS Staff Support Team
Contacts: Randall Johnson (651-602-1638)
Steve Fester (651-602-1363)

SUBJECT: Quarterly Performance Measures Update –Anomaly Report

DATE: June 22, 2005
(For the June 29th Meeting)

INTRODUCTION

At each meeting, the Committee has asked staff to bring forward, for discussion, one or more anomalies associated with the previous quarter's performance measurement reporting results. This report includes performance-reporting statistics for the period from March to May 2005. During these three months, several noteworthy anomalies in the statistics presented themselves and are shared below for discussion and comment. Several measures of interest, which are not anomalies, are also called out for the Committee's information.

PERFORMANCE REPORTING STATISTICS – March – May 2005:

1. Data Downloading Activity

a) **General:** Dataset **downloads decreased by 24%** from the same period in 2004, averaging 853 per month in 2004 period vs. 648 for the same period in 2005. However, during the same period in 2003, basically the same number of downloads were recorded as for this year: with an average of 659 per month. Although total downloads were down 24 percent, downloads via Café were down only slightly (4.8%) from the same period in 2004, from 515 2004 to 490 in 2005. Refer to the chart in the Reference Section for more details.

Comments:

(1) The March-May 2004 reporting period experienced the highest amount of download activity to date. Comments in the 2004 Annual Report indicate that the Committee offered the following possible explanations for the unprecedented increase in spring 2004 download activity: preparation for construction and other summer projects, data usage by university students and faculty, increased outreach to new communities (Emergency Preparedness, etc) and increased interest by NSDI-related interests.

At this time, it is assumed that the spring 2003 and spring 2005 download activity are representative of the norm and the spring 2004 activity is an aberration. This assumption is offered because visits to the Data Finder Catalog and Café web pages were essentially the same (down only 1.5%) compared to the same period in 2004, averaging 1,499 visits per month compared with 1,477 visits per month from March to May 2005. Staff is developing charts that display data for all reporting periods, not just for the past two years, to provide better information about longer-term trends.

(2) The 4.8 percent reduction in download activity via Café (515 in 2004 versus 490 in 2005) could be within the normal range of expected variation. However, another contributing factor may be beginning to impact this measure. As noted in Agenda Item 5a, in March 2005, MetroGIS staff became aware that users of new installations of DataFinder Café are not able to use Café to download TLG Street Centerline and Regional Parcel data - both foundations of MetroGIS's efforts - because the Café's security module does not work with the latest releases of Java. Users who have installed previous versions of Java to support Café are unaffected. In the case of licensed data, in those instances where Café does not work, staff believes that users are generally able to obtain

the data they need via FTP and are performing the clipping, aggregation, and formatting processes on their own that Café was designed to perform for them.

The results of a survey administered in May (Attachment A) of licensed users of TLG Street Centerline and Regional Parcel data, indicate that Café is performing valued functions. Question 7 in the survey asks the user to identify the importance to them of each of fourteen functions provided by Café. The function identified of highest importance was “Use of Café to download “secure” datasets –TLG data and/or MetroGIS parcel data”. As such, staff believes it **important to decide next steps concerning the Java/Security module incompatibility, in particular, if there is a substantive population of users who do not have an internal means to sufficiently ready needed data for use if received via FTP.** (See Agenda Item 5a.)

b) Endorsed Regional Data Solutions - General: The six regionally-endorsed datasets for which MetroGIS monitors downloading activity – parcels, street centerlines, city/county boundaries, Census geography, Census Demographic Profiles, and Planned Land Use - continue to dominate data downloading activity. (Land Cover is distributed by DNR and download statistics are not available.) Of the six datasets monitored, all but Planned Land Use were consistently in the top 7 datasets downloaded each month during this report period, as has often been the case in the past. Planned Land Use has also been in the top 10, 9 out of the last 12 months. The top three downloaded endorsed datasets during the current reporting period were Parcels (212), County & Municipal Boundaries (162), and Census Demographic Profiles (120).

Comments:

The six identified regionally-endorsed datasets constitute, on average, 36 percent of the total downloads for each of the three months in the reporting period, with a high of 37 percent in May. This percentage of total download activity is trending up from around 20 percent two years ago, with this reporting period posting the highest average percentage experienced to date. (It should be noted that a noticeable drop occurred in this statistic when parcel data was not available during much of 2004.) **Staff believes this general upward trend is continuing evidence that the effort that MetroGIS puts into implementing and seeking continued enhancements to regionally-endorsed datasets is valued.**

c) Regional Parcel Dataset: Since becoming available again on January 31 of this year, the Regional Parcel Dataset has continued to dominate the downloading activity, averaging 71 downloads per month from March to May. Hennepin County’s data was downloaded the most often of all seven counties’ data during 3 of the past 4 months (66 total downloads).

d) Regional Socioeconomic Data: There has been a significant increase in viewing of the data source pages accessed via the MetroGIS Socioeconomic Resources Page at www.datafinder.org/mg/socioeconomic_resources/index.asp, which was launched in April 2004. Over the past 13 months, there has been a monthly average of 29 visitor sessions, for a total of 382 visits where a data source page(s) was viewed. The total number of data source pages viewed was 515 with the top three being: Census Product: US Census of Population and Housing (86), MN Dept. of Education (68), and Metropolitan Council (56).

2) Downloading and Viewing Organizational Documents

Viewing of MetroGIS’s Organizational Structure illustration was visited 1,311 times, making it the most visited page during this period. The next most frequently visited page was “How to Find Data about the Twin Cities” at 995 visits. Other frequently viewed pages include MetroGIS’s Guidelines for Working with Address Data (803); Data Standards, Guidelines and Best Practices (791); Parcel Data [history/specifications] (665); and Business Planning (537).

The most frequently downloaded document is MetroGIS’s Business Object Framing Model (262), followed by DataFinder Café – Scope of Work (229), and MetroGIS’s 2004 Annual Report that was

posted to the website in late March (209). The promotional brochure that accompanied the 2004 Annual Report was downloaded 100 times.

The number of visitor sessions at www.metrogis.org has been trending upwards over the past 3-½ years. Monthly visitor sessions have almost quadrupled, from just over 2,000 per month in early 2002 to around 8,000 in 2005. Staff believes this is due to a) the redesign of the website in early 2002, which made navigation more intuitive, and b) the general increase in awareness of MetroGIS. (See the chart in the Reference Section.)

3) **Benefits Testimonial Received**

The eighth stakeholder testimonial to the value of MetroGIS's efforts has been prepared and posted to the website. The subject is the City of Roseville. See Agenda Item 7c for more information

RECOMMENDATION

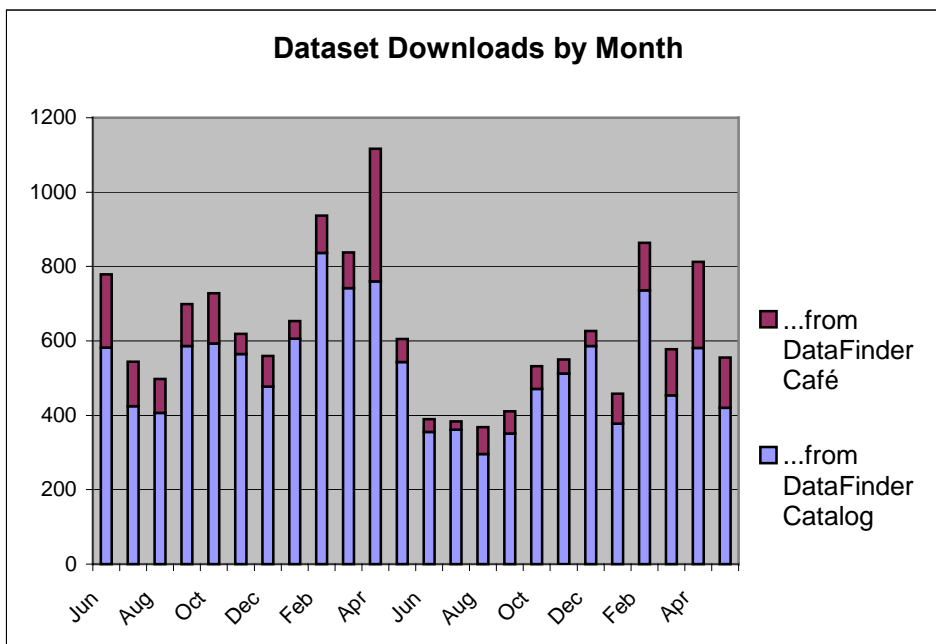
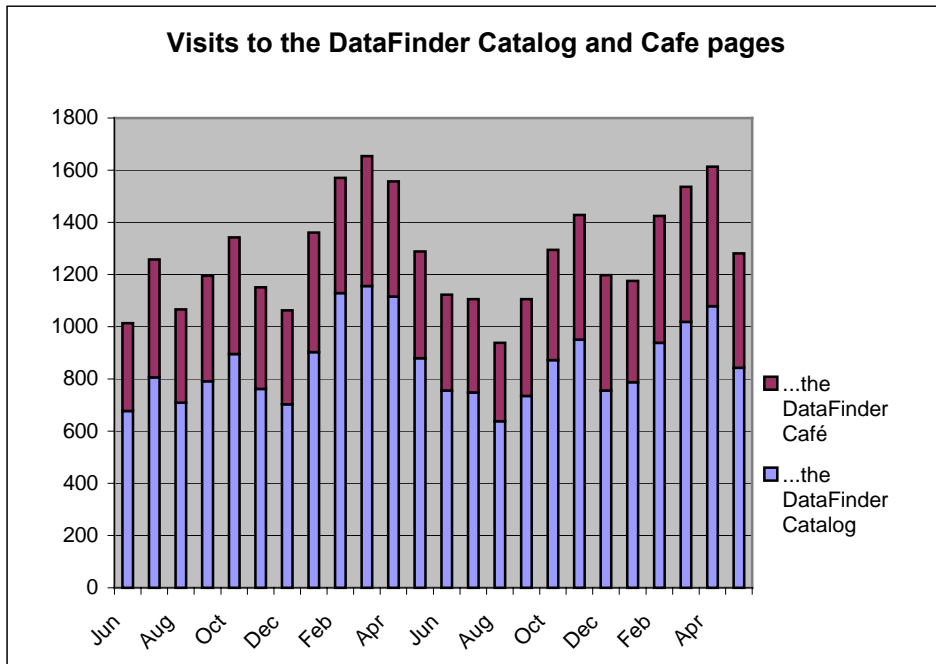
That the Coordinating Committee comment on questions and possible explanations offered by staff in an attempt to explain anomalies in performance measurement statistics for the March to May 2005 reporting period.

REFERENCE SECTION

PAST COMMITTEE ACTION

1. April 9, 2003, the Coordinating Committee:
 - a) Concluded that a formal performance measure report should occur only on an annual basis, with Committee consideration at its December meeting.
 - b) Agreed that staff should offer one or more anomalies (good or bad) in the Performance Measure for discussion at each of the Committee's other quarterly meetings for discussion. The results of these quarterly discussions are to be incorporated into the annual report.
2. January 26, 2005: The Policy Board adopted the 2004 Performance measures Report, as recommended by the Coordinating Committee. It is available for viewing and downloading at http://www.metrogis.org/teams/pb/meetings/05_0126/pm.pdf.

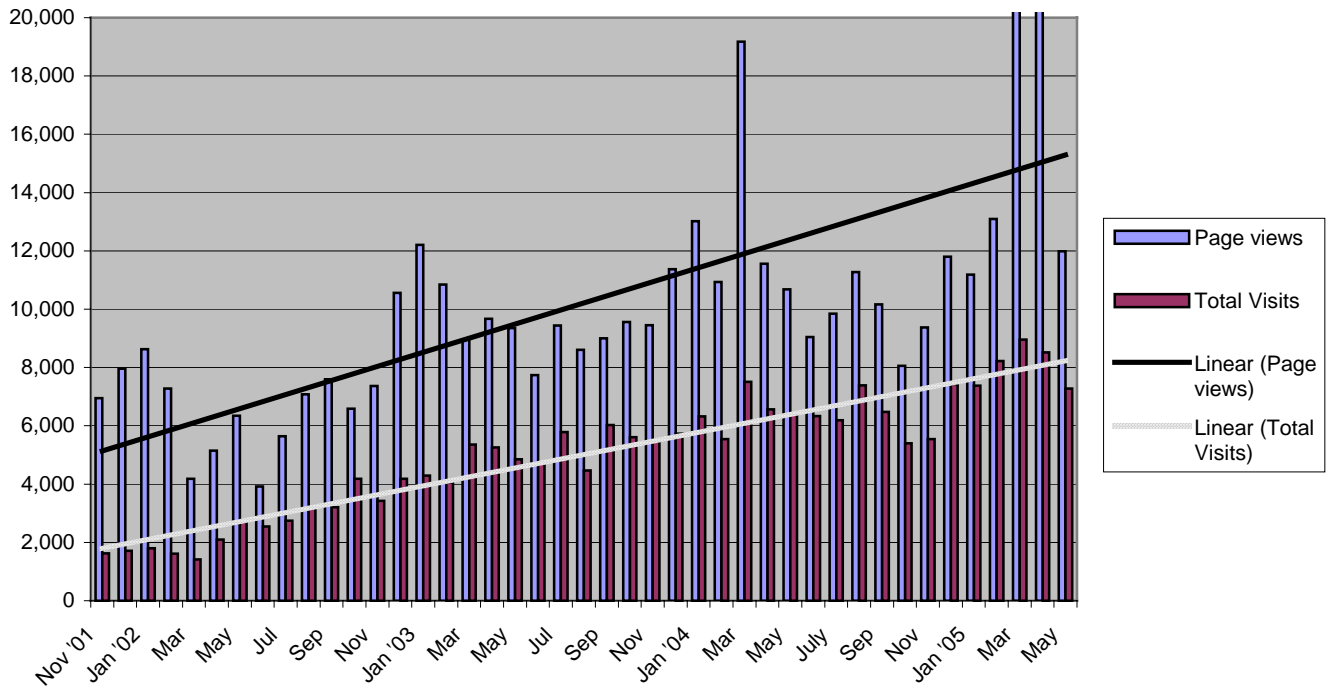
EXCERPTS FROM THE PERFORMANCE MEASURES REPORT – MARCH THROUGH MAY 2005



Monthly Usage of General MetroGIS Website (www.metrogis.org)

The lines labeled “linear” in the chart legend below represent trendlines that Excel calculates using regression analysis. These trendlines give a more accurate representation of the data than would a simple monthly average. Note that page views for March and April exceeded the maximum of 20,000 (roughly 22,000 and 34,000.) However, the trendline seen below is still based on these higher numbers.

www.metrogis.org: Page Views and Total Visits: November 2001 - May 2005



March - May 2005 Selected Statistics for www.metrogis.org

Ten Most Visited Pages (excluding home page)

1. Organizational Structure of Teams
metrogis.org/teams/org_structure.shtml
1,331 visits
2. How to Find Twin Cities Metro Area data
metrogis.org/data/getdata.shtml
995 visits
3. Guidelines for Working with Address Data
metrogis.org/data/standards/address_guidelines.shtm
803 visits
4. Data Standards, Guidelines and Best Practices
metrogis.org/data/standards/index.shtml
791 visits
5. Web Map Services
metrogis.org/data/web_map_services.shtml
671 visits
6. Parcel Dataset
metrogis.org/data/datasets/parcels/index.shtml
665 visits
7. Business Planning
metrogis.org/about/business_planning/index.shtml
537 visits
8. Annual Reports
about/annual_reports/index.shtml
532 visits
9. About MetroGIS
metrogis.org/about/index.shtml
483 visits
10. About Information Needs and Related Regional Solutions
metrogis.org/data/about/index.shtml
478 visits

Ten Most Downloaded Documents

1. Business Object Modeling - Entity Relationship Diagram
metrogis.org/data/about/bom_erd.pdf
262 downloads
2. DataFinder Café - Scope of Work
metrogis.org/data/datafinder/data_distribution_rfp_scope.pdf
229 downloads
3. 2004 MetroGIS Annual Report
about/annual_reports/ar04.pdf
209 downloads
4. Organizational Structure
metrogis.org/about/org_structure.pdf
193 downloads
5. DataFinder Café Functional Requirements Document
metrogis.org/data/datafinder/ieddm_func_req.pdf
192 downloads
6. GIS in Anoka County
metrogis.org/documents/presentations/anoka.pdf
154 downloads
7. MetroGIS Operations Guidelines
metrogis.org/about/history/ops_guidelines.pdf
117 downloads
8. MetroGIS Performance Measurement Plan
metrogis.org/benefits/perf_measure/perf_meas_plan.pdf
111 downloads
9. 2003-2005 MetroGIS Business Plan
about/business_planning/bplan_0305.pdf
103 downloads
10. 2005 MetroGIS Promotional Brochure
about/annual_reports/05brochure.pdf
100 downloads



TO: Coordinating Committee
FROM: MetroGIS Staff
Contact: Randall Johnson (651-602-1638)
SUBJECT: Postpone September 22nd Target for Strategic Directions Workshop
DATE: June 22, 2005
(For June 29th Meeting)

INTRODUCTION

Advice is requested from the Coordinating Committee about postponing the September 22nd target date for the proposed Strategic Direction Workshop. A “non-government perspective” forum, which has been requested by the Policy Board to precede the Strategic Direction Workshop, would instead be hosted in September.

A key reason for the proposed postponement is to be respectful of the amount of time the members’ are asked to spend away from your respective professional responsibilities to work on MetroGIS-related activities.

Hosting the Board-requested “non-government interest” forum the week of September 26th and retaining the Committee’s currently scheduled September 21st meeting date appear to be the most appropriate course of action.

POLICY BOARD DIRECTION – HOST A NON-GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE FORUM

At its April meeting, the Policy Board unanimously agreed, at the suggestion of Member Schneider, that a forum for “non-government interests” should be hosted by MetroGIS prior to convening the proposed Strategic Direction Workshop. The purpose of this “non-government interest” forum would be to identify challenges and opportunities which the non government community would like considered by MetroGIS leadership, as a component of the subsequent proposed Strategic Direction Workshop.

A workgroup, including Policy Board Member Schneider, met on June 21st to discuss a strategy for facilitating the requested non-government perspective forum. In addition to reaching agreement on a facilitation strategy, the workgroup also concluded that September should be the target month for this forum. Rich Cornell, a member of the Council’s Learning and Development staff, has agreed to facilitate the “non-government perspective” forum and the Council’s Metro94 facility is the proposed location. No out-of-pocket expenses are anticipated with the possible exception of modest refreshments, which could be covered if necessary by funds donated to MetroGIS.

Coordinating Committee members currently have two MetroGIS commitments scheduled for September – regular committee meeting on the 21st and the proposed Strategic Directions Workshop, currently scheduled for the 22nd. Staff was in the process of looking at options to reschedule the September 21st meeting to avoid two MetroGIS commitments in one week when the timing for the newly requested non-government perspective forum became a topic of discussion. Adding another large out-of-office commitment for MetroGIS activities during the month of September should be avoid low participation.

OPTIONS AND RATIONALE

1. At minimum, the Emergency Management Workgroup is planning to present their vision for a regional solution at the Committee’s September meeting, so there is sufficient reason to continue to plan on meeting in September.
2. Assuming the Committee wishes to retain its currently scheduled September 21 meeting date, either the week of September of 12th or 26th is workable for the subject non-government forum. However, the week of September 26th might be a slightly better choice in that it would allow the participants to

get back into the normal routine following summer schedules and vacations. Hosting the forum before the September 21st Committee meeting also would not provide any advantage, as the summary document would not be ready to share with Committee. But hosting it after the Committee's meeting would provide an opportunity for assistance to address any last minutes logistics.

3. The time separation between the non-government forum and Strategic Directions Workshop needs to be respectful of the time and effort offered by persons who will participate in the non-government perspective forum. An important aspect to accomplish this objective is to insure there is sufficient time to adequately digest what is learned from the participants and to summarize those findings for consideration at the subsequent Strategic Direction Workshop. A minimum of a one month separation is desirable to insure that the draft summary report can be reviewed by the participants before its is shared with others.
4. If the weeks of September 12th and 26th do not work for the non-government forum, the first week in October should be avoided because the annual state GIS/LIS Conference is scheduled during that week.
5. No one, to staff's knowledge, has expressed any opposition to delaying the Strategic Directions Workshop. All parties spoken with are more interested in having the issues and opportunities clearly defined before the proposed Strategic Direction Workshop is convened. Case in point, the Metropolitan Council's internal review of the MetroGIS is not finished and may not be in time to host a Strategic Direction Forum in September, if September 22 were to remain the target date.

DISCUSSION

Postponing the Workshop from the September 22nd target date appears to be the only prudent option, based on the reasons outlined above.

If the community wishes to retain Professor John Bryson to facilitate the proposed Strategic Direction Workshop, it could not be held this fall. When staff last spoke with Professor Bryson, the only dates he had open this fall were September 22nd or 23rd. Since the 23rd is a Friday, Thursday, September 22nd was selected as the target date. Other options have not, as yet, been investigated.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Coordinating Committee offer advice on:

- 1) Hosting the Policy Board requested Non-Government Perspective Forum the week of September 26th.
- 2) Rescheduling the September 22nd target date for the proposed Strategic Planning Workshop to a date at minimum of one month from the date of the Non-Government Perspective Forum. The actual date to be set at a later date.
- 3) Retaining its current regularly scheduled September 21 meeting date.



TO: Coordinating Committee

FROM: MetroGIS Staff Support Team
Contact: Steve Fester (651-602-1363) and Randall Johnson (651-602-1638)

SUBJECT: Project Updates

DATE: June 22, 2005
(For the June 29th meeting)

Announcements and information provided by persons other than the Staff Coordinator are so noted.

A) COUNTY DATA PRODUCER WORKGROUP ACTIVITIES

This Workgroup last met on May 12th. A summary of the meeting can be viewed at <http://www.metrogis.org/data/datasets/parcels/private/cdpw/index.shtml>. A summary of discussion concerning ongoing efforts follows. (Submitted by Dave Drealan, Carver County, Workgroup Chair)

(1) Regional Parcel Dataset Policy: Access by Non-Profit Interests

In response to need of the M3D project, Bill Brown, Hennepin County Surveyor, obtained approval to license Hennepin County data to selected non-profits for no fee. The access policy statement is provided in Appendix A. M3D is a dynamic GIS-based Internet application that brings together labor market, housing and development information and analysis for the Twin Cities metro area into a single tool for economic and community developers. Neighborhood organization and non-profit interests are playing a central role in the M3D project. This Hennepin County access policy requires non-profits to be legally constituted, community-based, and working on a mission that benefits the public including: promoting jobs, economic development, affordable housing, environmental improvements, or community development in order to qualify for free access. Licensed data also must be secure and password protected. Hennepin County retains the right to evaluate requests and approve or deny them on a case-by-case basis. The results of this access trial are intended to serve as a pilot for possible consideration of a region-wide policy.

(2) Collaborative Parcel Data Distribution Strategy – Non-Government Access

The Workgroup has decided to cease work on this project given very limited demand for the parcel dataset from non-government interests, the requirement of a substantial ARC IMS License fee associated with serving the data through Café, and the need to reach agreement on a common license for all seven counties, which some believe may be more difficult to achieve than the public sector license that took over a year to achieve. The workgroup is exploring other avenues for providing access to parcel data for non-government interests and does not intend to actively pursue this issue in the near future.

(3) Investigation of Data Sharing with Utilities

The Workgroup is waiting for a response from two of the three utilities (Xcel Energy and CenterPoint) that were invited to participate in the initial discussions. Earlier, staff had been informed by the Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative that the proposal had merit and they were interested in further discussions. The group also agreed in May to offer a similar invitation to Great River Energy. Great River Energy (GRE) recently expressed interest in testing the parcel data. Two of the counties are working with the GIS specialist at GRE to arrange for utilization of data for test purposes.

B) PRIORITY BUSINESS INFORMATION NEEDS SOLUTIONS (See <http://www.metrogis.org/data/index.shtml> for complete information about the status of solutions for each of MetroGIS's common information needs.)

(1) Address (Occupiable Units) Workgroup

On April 20th, the Policy Board accepted the vision statement for a proposal for sustaining a regional database that contains addresses for all the Occupiable Units as recommended by the Workgroup and Coordinating Committee (See Item 5c in the April 20th agenda packet at http://www.metrogis.org/teams/pb/meetings/05_0420/min.pdf). The Workgroup has set a self-imposed deadline of submitting a detailed white paper to the Coordinating Committee for its consideration at the September meeting. The paper will provide a detailed explanation of the vision as well as its major components (e.g., database design and design of the proposed web-based application to facilitate capture and standardization of address data for occupiable units). The Workgroup is also planning a presentation at the State GIS/LIS Conference this fall to present its recommendations for feedback to assist with refinement of its prototyping efforts. *(Nancy Read, Metropolitan Mosquito Control District, Workgroup Chair)*

(2) Existing Land Use

On April 20th, the Policy Board accepted the Committee's suggestion to host a forum later this fall (following the proposed Strategic Directions Workshop) to affirm common existing land use-related information needs, discuss the pros and cons of the data structure options previously investigated, and initiate discussion of a host of topics related to the organizational roles necessary to sustain implementation of a regional solution, if pursued.

(3) Emergency Preparedness Workgroup

A summary of the Workgroup's activities follows. *(Submitted by Randy Knippel, Dakota County, Workgroup Chair)*

a) Data Development and Standards

The Workgroup is planning on submitting a recommendation for Coordinating Committee consideration at the Committee's September 2005 meeting. The recommendation focuses on a data workflow process and associated collaborative procedures for assembly of several regional datasets needed to support Emergency Management needs and to provide on-going updating. A flowchart describing the process has been developed as a vehicle to obtain buy-in from each of the seven counties support the proposed multi-county enterprise framework. The pending proposal also includes support of an Internet-based, ArcIMS application for use as an outreach tool. Security and login procedures will be part of the package.

b) Public Health - SNS/BT

The Minnesota Department of Health is coming to closure on their bio-terrorism and mass dispensing site project. This project is driven by the County Health Departments. The makeup of this team is very similar to the makeup of the Emergency Management data group. They require base map templates for consistent output from county to county. This will be an ongoing process of the next 3-4 months.

c) Organizing GIS Resources

A detailed GIS contact list covering 70 cities over 7 counties was compiled for a mailing to encourage GIS people to register on the Contact Database at the Governors Council GIS page. This is the beginning of getting a network of GIS users working in EM across the region. On April 25, a workshop on emergency management was conducted for GIS professionals, including presentations from four perspectives including: local, regional, state, and federal. Presenters included Rick Larkin, formerly from City of Burnsville; Kim Ketterhagen, HSEM; Col. Eric Waage, MN National Guard; and Capt. Steve Swazee, US Navy Reserve. The workshop was held at the New Brighton Emergency Command Center Training Room.

d) Outreach to Emergency Management Community

MetroGIS and the Governor's Council EP Committee jointly staffed a booth at the Governor's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Conference on March 9 and 10. Handout, presentation materials and slide shows were prepared. A brochure was developed

and continues to be used as an outreach tool. Copies of the brochure are available for distribution on request, and can also be downloaded from the MetroGIS website at http://www.metrogis.org/data/info_needs/emergency_prep/epbro05.pdf.

e) **Governor's Council on Geographic Information – Coordination**

The GIS EP Contact website is operational (http://gis.metc.state.mn.us/ep_status_map/) and available to promote. Others at the GCGI EP committee are working on a series of slide shows to convey the EM message.

(4) **Highway and Road Networks** (*Gordon Chinander, Metropolitan Emergency Management Services Board [formerly Metropolitan 911 Board], Workgroup Chair*)

- a) The "E911 Address and Street Centerline Workgroup" has been actively working on a regional addressable street centerline solution to meet the needs of the E911 community, as well as broader needs of MetroGIS members. On April 20th the Policy Board approved the regional vision as recommended by the Workgroup. Using input from the Metropolitan 911 Board, LOGIS, and Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in the seven county area, the group is refining standards and policies for a standardized centerline product that can be produced using components from both private and public data providers. Recent changes in address database standards at Qwest may significantly impact these efforts. More information on this workgroup can be found at http://www.metrogis.org/teams/workgroups/e911_streets/index.shtml.

On June 1st, MetroGIS was invited to participate in the URISA/FGDC Street Address Data Standard Effort. Standards thus far defined via the MetroGIS effort have been used to launch the national discussion. See the 4th article from the top at <http://www.urisa.org/pressreleases.htm#URISA%20Leads%20Effort%20to%20Standardize%20National%20Address%20Data> for more information.

- b) The MetroGIS Roads & Highways technical group has been inactive over the past few months. A proposal for the goals and procedures of a pilot project to integrate local datasets with Mn/DOT's LDM was written by staff and issued to the group on January 19th, 2005. To date, no comments or questions have been returned on this proposal. Information about agreed upon goals, expectations, and participant roles can be viewed at http://www.metrogis.org/data/info_needs/highway_roads/index.shtml.

(5) **Lakes, Wetlands, etc.** (*Robert Maki, Mn DNR, Coordinating Committee Liaison*)

A pilot project, to work through partnerships and organizational roles needed to help facilitate the updating of the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) for the Twin Cities metropolitan area, is on hold until the new 2005 infrared imagery is acquired and processed (est. beginning of 2006). The pilot is viewed as a component of an anticipated broader Metro Area hydrologic solution that is anticipated, once the statewide strategic planning effort is complete. The initial components of the pilot can be viewed at <http://www.metrogis.org/teams/workgroups/index.shtml> under the Lakes & Wetlands Workgroup. The pilot project partners include Metropolitan Council, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Ramsey Co. Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

A White Paper is in progress towards analyzing gaps between 1997 needs and current developed (or developing) data. A 2006 forum is proposed to affirm needs and to discuss gap analysis in terms of defining a Regional solution.

(6) **Land Cover Dataset Enhancements** (*Bart Richardson, Mn DNR, Regional Custodian*)

The extent of coverage is now up to 71 percent of the seven-county region, with Anoka and Dakota counties completely done. Work is currently in progress to extend the coverage another 5 percent. An LCMR funded project is also planned to extend the coverage another 12 percent for

a total of 88 percent coverage. In addition, major revisions to the system have been implemented; changing how attributes are stored, re-working the manual, and improved the ArcView tool in response to feedback received from the users. In late 2005 or early 2006 another major revision of the system is anticipated, once the DNR's new natural community classifications system is complete. DNR, the regional custodian, is tentatively planning on hosting a user forum the second half of 2005 to identify other desired improvement.

(7) Parcels (*Mark Kotz, Metropolitan Council, Regional Custodian*)

Notice was emailed on May 18th to all licensed users that the second quarter update was available for downloading via MetroGIS DataFinder. Since licensing was instated on January 31st, 51 organizations had obtained the required license to access and use this dataset. As of June 20th, the types of organizations licensed were as follows:

- Local gov't: **25** (7 added 3rd Party licenses)
- Regional gov't: **4** (1 added 3rd Party licenses)
- State/Federal gov't: **7** (1 added 3rd Party licenses)
- Academic: **15** (2 added 3rd Party licenses)

(8) Socioeconomic Characteristics of Areas (*Amy West, U of M Population Center, Regional Custodian*)

- a) The University of Minnesota Population Center staff, aided by Will Craig (CURA), oversee management of the content of the Socioeconomic Resources Page (www.datafinder.org/mg/socioeconomic_resources/index.asp), fix broken links, and coordinate efforts to add new data sources.

The newest entry, entitled "Location of Services", provides information about the location of facilities licensed by the MN Department of Human Services. This source is listed under two metadata categories - "Social, Justice, and Emergency Services" and "Demographics and Business and Economics".

- b) In accordance with a MetroGIS Policy Board request, the Metro Public Health GIS Users Group (Tim Zimmerman, Hennepin County, Chair) has secured agreement from the metro area counties for new ways to publish vital statistics (birth and death data) that present more small area information in formats compatible with GIS, while preserving confidentiality of individuals. Such information (the attributes associated with births and deaths, such as the number of low birth-weight births, births to teenage mothers, etc.) can serve as useful indicators of community well-being. Their proposal has not yet been officially sanctioned by the MN Department of Health, but is expected to be taken forward to the Department by the end of July. For more information contact Tim Zimmerman at tim.zimmerman@co.hennepin.mn.us or 612-348-0307.

C) STRATEGIC DIRECTION WORKSHOP AND BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE

See Agenda Item 5f.

D) DATAFINDER CAFÉ – UPGRADE OPTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION

See Agenda Item 5a.

Appendix A

PROPOSED POLICY FOR NO-FEE ACCESS TO PARCEL DATA FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

February 8, 2005

Hennepin County may provide no-fee access to that portion of the current MetroGIS Regional Parcel Dataset, contained within county boundaries to non-profit community development organizations for individual projects with specific design and purpose subject to the following conditions.

1. The organization must meet the legal requirements of a non-profit organization under Minnesota law and must have a public purpose or public benefit mission.
2. The organization must have a current data license agreement with Hennepin County, which is subject to annual renewal.
3. The organization must make its request in writing and provide a description for the use of the data.
4. The Board of Directors of the organization is composed of community members whose mission and goals is aligned with local government.
5. The organization serves the purpose of promoting jobs, economic development, affordable housing, environmental improvements, or community development
6. Hennepin County will evaluate each request and approve or deny the request based on a case-by-case basis. The decision whether to approve or deny any request will be within the sole discretion of Hennepin County.
7. Data will be used only for officially approved uses related to the organization's non-profit mission and purpose.
8. Data will not be used for private purposes or financial gain.
9. Direct access will be limited to designated staff and leaders of the organization. Each organization will have data privacy and data security guidelines specific to the organizations programs and applications.
10. Access will be password-protected.



TO: Coordinating Committee

FROM: MetroGIS Staff Support Team
Contact: Steve Fester (651-602-1363) and Randall Johnson (651-602-1638)

SUBJECT: Information Sharing

DATE: June 17, 2005
(For the June 29th meeting)

Announcements and information provided by persons other than the Staff Coordinator are so noted.

A) CHANGE IN TIES' REPRESENTATION ON THE COMMITTEE

Lee Whitcraft is retiring from TIES, effective June 30th, and as such has notified MetroGIS that Dick Carlstrom will replace him as TIES' representative on the Coordinating Committee. A copy of the certificate of appreciation to be presented to Lee is attached (Attachment A). Lee joined the Committee in 1998.

B) STATUS OF MN LAND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION CENTER (LMIC)

On Monday, March 23, just before the constitutional deadline for the 2005 legislative session, both the Senate and the House passed the Omnibus State Government Finance bill, HF 1481. Governor Pawlenty signed it into law on June 3. The legislature's budget compromise partially restores the 75% funding cut recommended in the Governor's original proposal. The final cut averages about 30% for the 2006 and 2007 fiscal years (7/1/05 through 6/30/07). However, HF 1481 provides only a short-term fix as it retains the 75% budget cut as LMIC's base budget for the 2008 and 2009. With supplemental funding from grants and cost reduction measures, the 2006/2007 budget will support LMIC's continued commitments to GIS coordination and Clearinghouse activities for the next two years.

On June 6, the Department of Administration created a new Office of Geographic and Demographic Analysis that includes LMIC, the State Demographer, the State Archeologist, and the Environmental Quality Board. GDA brings together the department's programs that provide coordination, data, and expertise to help guide development around the state. David Arbeit, previously LMIC's Director, was named Director of GDA. (Submitted by David Arbeit)

C) NEW TESTIMONIAL (BENEFITS FROM METROGIS'S EFFORTS)

The eighth testimonial to the benefits of MetroGIS's efforts is from the Ramsey County GIS Users Group/City of Roseville. It was written by Jeanne Landkamer following an interview conducted during the week of May 16th with Dennis Welsch and David Windle. See Attachment B. It is also posted at <http://www.metrogis.org/benefits/testimonials/index.shtml>.

D) PRESENTATIONS / OUTREACH / STUDIES (not mentioned elsewhere)

1. Submitted Articles for Summer 2005 Issue of GIS/LIS Newsletter

Two articles were submitted for the Summer 2005 issue. They can be viewed at <http://www.mngislis.org/index.htm>.

2. Participation in Regional Geospatial Data Experts Workshop

The Staff Coordinator participated in this Workshop on May 3 in Washington D.C. The purpose was to reach agreement on the topics that should be covered in a proposed handbook for "establishing and sustaining regional collaboration to address common GIS needs." The handbook is proposed to be available in fall 2005. In addition, the Staff Coordinator had an opportunity to advocate for several

needs of the MetroGIS community. See Attachment C for a summary of these items. The forum organizers paid the travel expenses.

3. Hosted Workshop: Emergency Management for GIS Professionals

The MetroGIS and Governor's Council on Geographic Information Emergency Preparedness Committees, along with Minnesota GIS/LIS and the State of Minnesota HSEM, held a workshop, "Emergency Management for GIS Professionals" on April 25th at the New Brighton Public Safety Building/Emergency Operations Center.

The purpose of this workshop was to educate government GIS professionals on the subject of emergency management and to provide an opportunity for networking and building relationships with the emergency management community. Federal, state, regional and local Emergency Management professionals presented information on their roles in homeland security and all hazard emergency management. The Workshop aimed to answer: What do Emergency Managers do? What happens before, during, and after an emergency event? What does NIMS stand for? *(Submitted by Randy Knippel, Dakota County Office of GIS)*

E) RELATED METRO AND STATE GEOSPATIAL INITIATIVES UPDATE

1. E-Government Needs Assessment Conducted by Metropolitan Council

The E-Government Roadmap will be a strategic plan for the development of the Metropolitan Council's website functionality and online services.

During the first phase ("visioning") of the project, information and ideas were gathered through fact-finding discussions with 53 people, both internal staff and external stakeholders. Another 101 people provided input through a survey that asked: Can Metropolitan Council services or information be improved with new web features, interfaces, or online services?

The complete scan identified over 80 opportunities, potential web tools, and solutions to Metropolitan Council service needs. These opportunities and solutions were roughly prioritized to cull out a Top 10 list of e-government opportunities that the Council could pursue over the next few years. A phase 1 report – covering service needs, opportunities identified, decision factors for prioritization, and foundational requirements – was reviewed and approved on June 1 by the Project Review Team.

The project is now proceeding with phases 2 and 3. These phases involve analysis of technical architecture and foundational prerequisites to e-government; analysis of management process, resources and standards; recommendations; and "conceptual architecture" profiles of three of the Top 10 opportunities carried over from phase 1. The three opportunities selected for "conceptual architecture" profiles are: (1) an enterprise-wide content management system; (2) interactive GIS functionality built into pages and portals, starting with the Metro Transit Trip Planner as a pilot; (3) an Online Regional Planning WebBook. *(Submitted by Todd Graham, Metropolitan Council Research Manager)*

2. Minnesota 3D Project – Needs Assessment Underway

Eighteen M3D consortium partners including neighborhood and community organizations serving Minneapolis and several Twin Cities suburban municipalities have been asked to respond to a community development/GIS-related needs assessment. The results will be used to assist the M3D project team design a proposed Internet-based application. These results will also likely be valuable to MetroGIS as investigations proceed into development of commonly needed geospatial based applications.

M3D community partners have identified community development applications for current work, including data, reporting and presentation needs. These projects, to be completed over the next several months, will inform the online mapping application that the Labor Market Information Office

at DEED is developing for M3D. An alpha version will be created by September 2005 and a beta site for testing by February 2006.

An excerpt from the M3D Project Application's Executive Summary states: "Building on the existing GIS infrastructure, M3D is an Internet-accessible and integrated system of employment, housing and development information and analysis tools for neighborhoods, community development corporations, employment trainers, businesses, central cities, suburbs, counties of the Twin Cities metropolitan region, and the State of Minnesota....By combining new statewide data on employment and demographics through an agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Social Security Administration, and the Census Bureau with the existing region-wide parcel level housing data, Minnesota 3-D will be a "first-of-its-kind" system....M3D is a scalable, standards-based system that can accommodate expanded data layers and geographic coverage." "The centerpiece of this approach is the creation of an online mapping application. With emerging Internet-based mapping technologies, this is the most cost-effective way to maximize access, analytical capacity, and user-to-user information sharing." (Submitted by Will Craig, U of M CURA)

3. County-Based GIS User Group Activities

a) The **Scott County** GIS User Group hosted a Strategic Planning Workshop on Wednesday, April 27th. The Workshop consisted of presentations from three GIS professionals in the metro area to identify GIS trends and opportunities that the group, followed by a brainstorming session to identify the group's current assets, desired future changes, and ideas about how to approach desired changes. Contact Jennifer Wittkopf, GIS Coordinator with the City of Prior Lake, at 952.447.9833 for more information. (Submitted by Jennifer Wittkopf, City of Prior Lake)

b) Carver County

- External User Group Website

The County demonstrated the External User Group website and Data Download site. All local government jurisdictions have access to the website through a username and password. County owned datasets are available to the cities to download at their convenience.

- Squad Car Application Demonstration

County demonstrated the new Squad Car Application developed by Rowekamp and Associates. The application has potential to be used for other applications within the county.

- County LIDAR/Aerial Photography Project

The County displayed examples of the datasets they will be receiving and gave examples of how some of the datasets can be used. Final deliverables for the project are expected by December 2005.

The next meeting will be July 18th at the city of Chanhassen. Chanhassen will be doing a demonstration their GIS. (Submitted by Peter Henschel, Carver County GIS)

c) Dakota County

The Dakota County Summer 2005 GIS Newsletter has been posted to the Dakota County website at <http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/gis/newsletter/index.htm>.

In this issue read about [Pixel] Size Does Matter, Excavation Permit Tracking Made Easier, DakotaNet GIS: Making Geography Our Common Denominator, and Labeling Like A Pro. If you have questions about this information, please contact: Dakota County Office of GIS, 952.891.7081 or email at GIS@co.dakota.mn.us. (Submitted by Dakota County Office of GIS)

F) RELATED FEDERAL/NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL INITIATIVES UPDATE

1. FY 2006 National Geospatial Programs Office (NGPO) Plan of Action Released

Recently, the NGPO released guidelines for an ambitious, integrated three-part program to substantively move the nation closer to realizing the NSDI vision by June 30, 2006. (The NGPO was created in August 2004 to coordinate, under one director, FGDC, Geospatial One Stop, and The National Map programs.) A summary of the NGPO's plan published in the June 2005 edition of GeoWorld can be viewed at <http://geoplance.com/uploads/FeatureArticle/0506gc.asp>. The complete plan can be viewed at http://www.metrogis.org/teams/cc/meetings/05_0629/index.shtml.

In short, this ambitious Plan sets forth detailed strategies for: 1) moving toward a national GIS, 2) focusing on “matters and places of national importance” and, 3) concentrating on “management excellence”. The Staff Coordinator has asked Ron Wencl, USGS Regional Liaison and member of the Coordinating Committee, to meet with MetroGIS leadership to talk about partnership opportunities that may be appropriate for the MetroGIS community in accordance with this Plan of Action. *(Submitted by Ron Wencl, USGS)*

2. URISA ESIG Award Publication – MetroGIS Among Fifteen Best to be Showcased

The URISA Publications Committee has commissioned a project to document, in book form, URISA ESIG Award winners and applications from the last 5 years. The purpose of this publication is to give more exposure to these systems and to increase the number of individuals who have access to them.

The ESIG Awards Committee reviewed dozens of past applications and narrowed the group down to the 15 best. MetroGIS’s 2002 winning entry in the Enterprise System category is among the top 15. MetroGIS was invited to provide a brief update of its efforts, since the 2002 application, to include in this book, which was submitted on May 31st. The update article (Attachment D) includes a condensed version of the MetroGIS’s original submission, which can be viewed at <http://www.metrogis.org/about/awards/index.shtml#esig>.

3. MetroGIS Cited in New Book - Only United States Example

A book entitled “*GIS Worlds – Creating Spatial Data Infrastructures*” was recently published by ESRI Press. It was written by Dr. Ian Masser. In the Foreword, Jack Dangermond, President of ESRI, states “Dr. Ian Masser’s lifelong dedication to geography and his experience in the development of spatial data infrastructure (SDI) is unmatched...” The objective sought by Dr. Ian Masser, through the writing this book, is to provide an “overview of the development of SDI over the past 10-15 years ... *(and)* focus on new policy options and institutional structures associated with the formulation and implementation of successful SDI initiatives. The overall scope (of the book) is worldwide, although particular attention is given to developments in the four countries regarded as among the leaders in the field: Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States.”

MetroGIS is the only example highlighted for the United States. Dr. Masser calls attention to several of MetroGIS’s core principles: a) reliance upon a consensus decision-making process for all matters fundamental to long-term success, b) powers and resources to develop and sustain MetroGIS are secured through a voluntary, collaborative and cooperative process, and c) active involvement of elected officials representing core stakeholders. He also calls attention to the importance of the Metropolitan’s Council’s role as primary sponsor, as is the critical role played of each of the volunteer the data custodians. Permission has been requested to copy the excerpt about MetroGIS for viewing by MetroGIS participants.

4. MetroGIS Participants Cited in Article about “White Knights”

Five MetroGIS Participants were highlighted in a recent article in the URISA Journal. URISA is an international association of professionals using GIS and other information technologies in state and local government. Its journal is refereed and is considered the best in the field.

The article, “White Knights of the Spatial Data Infrastructure,” by William J. Craig is about people who are pushing hard to share data across organizations – beyond what is expected. It is based on interviews with exceptional people in Minnesota. It asks them what they did and why they did it.

Each of their answers is detailed, but the answers can be summarized too. There are three common motivating factors for these white knights:

1. **Idealism:** They think better data makes better decisions.
2. **Enlightened self-interest:** Making their data available helps them and their organizations.
3. **Peer support:** They live in a professional environment that honors data sharing.

Among those interviewed were: Randy Johnson, MetroGIS Staff Coordinator; David Arbeit, former chair of the Coordinating Committee, and Larry Charboneau, Les Maki and Gary Stevenson, former members of the Coordinating Committee. The author of the article, Will Craig, was also formerly chair of the Coordinating Committee.

To access the full article, see <http://www.urisa.org/Journal/Vol16No2/Craig.pdf>. (Submitted by Will Craig, U of M CURA)

5. American Community Survey Funded

The U.S. Census Bureau announced on January 10th that it has received \$146 million for the American Community Survey (ASC) for FY 2005. Full implementation was to begin in January. The funding allows the Census Bureau to conduct a short form-only census in 2010 and provide the nation with annual socioeconomic information every year, rather than just once a decade. The ACS will be mailed to a sample of households in all 3,233 U.S. counties and in Puerto Rico each month, beginning in late December.

Once these improved data are available for the Metro Area, a Phase II MetroGIS Socioeconomic Workgroup will evaluate how they can be used to better address socioeconomic information needs of the MetroGIS community.

If you have questions or comments about the American Community Survey, please call (888) 456-7215 or email cmo.acs@census.gov. General information about this mailing list is available at: <http://lists.census.gov/mailman/listinfo/acs-alert>. (Submitted by Will Craig, U of M CURA)

6. New Study on Licensing Geographic Data and Services

The National Academies has just released its new report on *Licensing Geographic Data and Services*. The report does a nice job of describing the various reasons why to license and provides guidance on various licensing options that would help to meet those goals. It concludes with a set of recommendations, including a call for government “agencies, trade associations, and public interest groups to exercise leadership in promoting standard clauses,” because this would reduce the costs and uncertainties of entering into new licensing agreements. Free access to the full report is provided at www.nap.edu/catalog/11079.html. Hard copy and PDF versions are available for a fee. (This is another example of how to control rights and access to intellectual property.) (Submitted by Will Craig, U of M CURA)

7. NSGIC-NACo-USGS Project to Enhance *National Map Partnerships*

On January 5th, two individuals affiliated with this national project interviewed the Staff Coordinator. The purpose of the interview was to gather information for the preparation of a Best Practices Model from the perspective of Regional geospatial collaboration initiatives. A report was to be published in March. The Best Practices Model is one of three objectives involved in the broader initiative. The review phase of the resulting document “Final Report – The National Map Partnership Project” has been initiated. A copy of the 165-page draft final report has been received by Staff Coordinator for review and comment. Staff have not had an opportunity as of this writing to review the document. The Committee will be kept apprised of any issues or concerns that warrant formal comment.

8. Geospatial One-Stop Project Awards Portal Contract

After a highly competitive procurement process, the Geospatial One-Stop project has awarded a contract to ESRI of Redlands, Calif., to update www.geodata.gov, an existing online tool for combining thousands of geospatial resources from federal, state, local, tribal and private sources.

The website enables decision makers to access geospatial resources and thus respond quickly in an emergency to protect lives, property and basic services. The full value of the contract, if all options are awarded, will be \$2.38 million over five years.

(Source: http://www.doi.gov/news/05_News_Releases/050131c) (Submitted by Ron Wencl, USGS)

9. New High Resolution Orthoimagery for the Twin Cities

Through cooperative efforts between the US Geological Survey (USGS) and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), updated high resolution orthoimagery is now available. The data will support NGA's Homeland Security mission and The National Map of the USGS. The natural color imagery was acquired in April 2004 with a spatial resolution of 0.3 meters (approximately 1 foot pixels). The design accuracy is estimated not to exceed 3-meter diagonal RMSE (2.12m RMSE in X or Y). The projected coordinate system is UTM with a NAD83 datum. (Submitted by Ron Wencl, USGS)

The recent imagery is archived at the National Center for Earth Resources Observations and Science (EROS), formerly known as EROS Data Center, in Sioux Falls, SD. The Seamless Data Distribution System (<http://seamless.usgs.gov/>) provides viewing and download access (limited volume) to the imagery. Additionally, the imagery is included in The National Map Catalog and is also accessible through The National Map viewer (<http://nationalmap.gov/>) for viewing and download. (Submitted by Ron Wencl, USGS)



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Presented to

Lee Whitcraft

TIES

Thank you for your invaluable contributions to the development and realization of the MetroGIS vision. You distinguished yourself as a willing and active participant of the MetroGIS Coordinating Committee from June 1998 to June 2005.

Your dedication to acceptance of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology as a standard business tool of government throughout the seven-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area has helped to bring together the MetroGIS stakeholder community to improve the way we share and use geospatial information.

On behalf of the MetroGIS community, thank you for your valued contributions and we wish you the best in your next endeavors.

June 2005

Victoria Reinhardt, Chair
MetroGIS Policy Board

Nancy Read, Chair
MetroGIS Coordinating Committee

Randall Johnson, AICP
MetroGIS Staff Coordinator

ATTACHMENT B

MetroGIS: Performance Measures Case Study City of Roseville

Organization: City of Roseville
Staff Contact: Dennis Welsch, Community Development Director
Dennis.welsch@ci.roseville.mn.us
651-792-7071
Date of Interview: May 18, 2005
Interviewer: Jeanne Landkamer, Landkamer Consulting
612-722-3999

Organizational Profile: The City of Roseville is a first-ring suburban community of 33,690, situated just north of St. Paul and east of northern Minneapolis. Located on two major highway arterials (I-35W & State Hwy. 36), it is a short commute to either downtown area. Roseville is considered the retail and commercial hub of the northeast suburban area.

Uses of GIS: The City of Roseville has been using geographic information systems (GIS) since 1993 as the primary means for producing its maps as well as for the preparation of many reports and other data that assist the city in its day-to-day business and decision-making. A few examples of Roseville's use of GIS include:

- Generating monthly reports on crime data mapped by address.
- Analyzing the fiscal impact of various redevelopment scenarios.
- Creating up-to-date mailing lists.
- Mapping and analyzing land use on a subregional level.
- Providing an online mapping service that allows viewers to access mapped data on city zoning, land use, demographics, development opportunities, parks and trails, and property tax and value.

Success story: Roseville is home to more than 2,200 businesses that employ more than 39,000 people, many of whom live outside the city. City staff rely on GIS data that cross city and county boundaries to undertake economic development planning that helps the city attract new businesses and assist existing businesses to grow and flourish. GIS gives the city the ability to map, analyze and cross-reference employment, demographic, housing and travel behavior data. For example, the city can analyze its housing stock to ensure the mix is affordable to current and potential workers in the city, thus reducing commute time and demand on area roadways. It can also look at demographic data to plan for the right mix of housing over a period of time.

Impact of MetroGIS: City planning is incomplete if it takes into account only what is happening inside the borders of the city. Roseville's employment base and travelsheds go well beyond its borders, so access to data about property characteristics, land use, employment, travel behavior and demographics from other cities and counties is critical. The culture of data-sharing facilitated by MetroGIS, and its easy data access tool, DataFinder, make cross-jurisdictional analysis not only possible but quick and easy.

“It would have been an onerous task for us to try to gather data from several cities and two counties on our own,” explained David Windle, Roseville’s GIS Coordinator. “The analysis would not be politically or technically feasible -- especially without the MetroGIS future land use data, which provides a common language that allows apples-to-apples comparisons.

“Having an organization that coordinates the sharing of data is a much more efficient mechanism than having all the region’s cities, and other organizations, spending time to acquire the data individually,” said Dennis Welsch, Roseville’s community development director. “The bottom line is better service to the public – by enabling management and elected officials to make more informed decisions because of access to the wealth of information that can be processed and displayed using GIS.”

Roseville is a member of the Ramsey County GIS Users Group, an alliance of cities, neighborhood groups, the county, schools and other organizations that use GIS in carrying out their missions. MetroGIS has been a “tremendous resource” for the user group, Windle said. When the group or some of its members are trying something new, they look to MetroGIS for guidance. “Inevitably, someone in the region has tried something like it. Through MetroGIS, we are able to talk on a regular basis with our colleagues across the region.”

Another important role that MetroGIS plays, Windle said, is in developing data standards and best practices that serve as guidelines for local communities. “Using the standards and best practices gives us a lot more confidence in our locally produced data. It also ensures that data from different jurisdictions is more likely to be compatible.”

With communities using MetroGIS-endorsed datasets as a base for their planning, the accuracy of data is not questioned nearly as much, said Welsch. “Communities can focus their discussions with the Metropolitan Council, for example, during the comprehensive planning process, on substantive policy issues rather than on whether the data are good or not.”

The Memphis Chamber of Commerce made a visit to the Twin Cities and Roseville several years ago, Welsch said. “They were astounded that the region had figured out how to get cities, counties, school districts and other local governments to share data. Now they’re working in their metropolitan area to get something similar started. MetroGIS is an asset we just can’t take for granted.”

ATTACHMENT C

INVITATION TO ATTEND

Dear Colleague,

In 2004, the Federal Geographic Data Committee chartered a team to advance implementation strategies for creating, sharing and maintaining the geospatial data most needed in metropolitan regions. The team identified five core competencies essential to sustaining regional geospatial data collaboratives:

- governance model
- financial model
- business case
- geospatial data architecture
- marketing & communication

Because you have expertise in one or more of those core competencies we invite you to join us in Washington, D.C. on May 3, 2004 for a Regional Geospatial Data Framework Experts Workshop. The workshop agenda will be developed over the next few weeks in collaboration with workshop participants.

To accept this invitation, please send email to Kathy Covert at klcovert@usgs.gov on or before March 15, 2005. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kathy Covert

Attachment: Regional Geospatial Data Framework Fact Sheet

Invitation List:

Randy Johnson, MetroGIS
Patrick DeTemple, Bay Area Regional GIS Council
Raj Singh, MIT
Joe Ferreira, MIT
Doug Nebert, FGDC
Eliot Christian, FGDC
William Ulrich, IT expert
Bruce Cahan, principal Urban Logic, Inc.
Pari Sabety, Director, Urban Markets Initiative, Brookings Institute
Andrew Reamer, Deputy, Urban Markets Initiative
Rebecca Somers
Adena Schutzberg, Editor Directions Magazine
Bruce Oswald, Assistant Director & CIO
New York Office of Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure Coordination
Pete Magee, Coordinator, San Luis Valley GIS/GPS Authority
Keisha Biggs, University of Central Florida, Center for Regional Studies
David Risinger, The Audubon Partnership

Attachment C (cont'd)
Regional Geospatial Data Framework

Objective: To discover and document the technical, political, economic and social factors relevant to sustaining the urban data framework and to reach consensus on next steps.

Governance

Addressing how the participating members of the Regional Geospatial Data Framework community will organize themselves for data sharing management and maintenance.

- Agreements to define organizational structure and membership, including eligibility, rights and obligations.
- Data Sharing Policies to address data access, security, distribution and minimum data standards.

A. Business Case

Articulating cost efficiencies and other tangible and non-tangible benefits for creating and maintaining the Regional Geospatial Data Framework.

B. Financial Model

Developing a sound financial footing for development and ongoing operation of the Regional Geospatial Data Framework based on costs and funding strategies.

C. Geospatial Framework Data Architecture

Establishing the geospatial data architecture to deliver a shared spatial data infrastructure or *Regional GIS Data Architecture* to advance the Regional Geospatial Data Framework mission, vision and business goals.

- Existing Environment to define current technology and business environments
- Gap Analysis to identify where technology can further business goals
- Future Environment to define the desired future technology environment to achieve optimization

D. Marketing & Communications

Developing and delivering effective, timely informative content to convey and promote the Regional Geospatial Data Framework.

- Messages to create the mission and vision
- Branding to create an identity with logo, tag line, and graphic elements
- Marketing Plan to identify and target various audiences via effective outreach tactics
- Communications Plan to determine timing and methods for delivery of messages

Attachment C (cont'd)

Advocacy for MetroGIS Needs

The Staff Coordinator shared the following suggestions with the forum hosts and participants:

1. Investigate potential for cost sharing to assist regional consortia with financing the costs of fostering collaboration who agree that pursuit of achieving the vision of the NSDI is in the public interest. Response: The message was heard but no next steps were agreed upon.
2. Need for unbiased, respected research to establish widely accepted models through which to equitably measure the relative value of the various custodial roles performed in a multi-participatory environment. (E.g., I shared the example of the 23 custodian roles that have been voluntarily assumed by 10 different organizations via MetroGIS's efforts). Response: The group agreed to forward this proposal to the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science for its consideration.
3. Need to document benefits of collaborative organizational structures that engage locally-elected officials, who are representative of all essential stakeholders, to set voluntary collective policy and mitigate differences in an environment where all affected and relevant parties are engaged, dominated by none. Response: The message was heard and the group agreed to include references to published materials, which document associated benefits.
4. Investigate the potential to secure flexibility in an emerging policy of the National Geospatial Program Office (NGPO) that proposes to look to the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) as the primary means of coordination with the states and their associated local and regional interests. Strict adherence to this policy may preclude Minnesota from an activity engaging in the dialogue as Minnesota does not have state office/department that coordinates geospatial policy and related expenses as many of the other states have elected to establish. In addition, effective regional consortia are widely seen as critical components to achieving the NSDI vision and yet there appears to be a disconnect with the NSGIC strategy relative to regional (substate/multi-county) collaborative efforts. Comment: Prior to the May 3rd meeting, staff had arranged for Stan Ponce, Director of the NGPO, to personally attend the proposed Strategic Directions Workshop. It is my understanding he is still planning to attend. This May 3rd forum participants took no other action.
5. Need to network with others who have similar needs and experiences. Over the years these opportunities have resulted in receipt of over \$150,000 in grant and valuable means information to facilitate introspection and identifying opportunities for improvement. Comment: Via this forum, staff reestablished/established contact with numerous persons with common goals and objectives to those, which underpin MetroGIS's efforts.